









Paers  
J. Bluck

The order of the day for the 1971 year is:

Geographical, Cultural and Historical Studies

Work in the field of interdenominational cooperation

Work in the field of interdenominational cooperation

Evangelical and Anglican

International, Ecumenical and Anglican Conference

International Anglican Conference

World Council of Churches

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

- AACC - All Africa Conference of Churches
- CCIA - Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
- CCPD - Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development
- CEC - Conference of European Churches
- CICARWS - Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service
- CMC - Christian Medical Commission
- CWME - Commission on World Mission and Evangelism
- GDR - German Democratic Republic
- LWF - Lutheran World Federation
- SODEPAX - Committee on Society, Development and Peace
- WARC - World Alliance of Reformed Churches
- WCC - World Council of Churches
- WSCF - World Student Christian Federation
- YMCA - Young Men's Christian Association
- YWCA - Young Women's Christian Association

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AACC - All Africa Conference of Churches  
CCIA - Commission of the Churches on International Affairs  
CCPD - Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development  
CEC - Conference of European Churches  
CICARWS - Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service  
CMC - Christian Medical Commission  
CWME - Commission on World Mission and Evangelism  
GDR - German Democratic Republic  
LWF - Lutheran World Federation  
SODEPAX - Committee on Society, Development and Peace  
WARC - World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
WCC - World Council of Churches  
WSCF - World Student Christian Federation  
YMCA - Young Men's Christian Association  
YWCA - Young Women's Christian Association



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# Ecumenical Press Service

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CLERGY GROUP TO DEFEND  
HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

Tiruvalla, India (EPS) - A group of clergymen from the churches in Kerala have formed a fellowship for the protection of human rights in India in the face of the "complete abrogation of civil liberties and democratic rights" in the wake of the proclamation of the Internal Emergency on June 26, 1975.

The aims of the "Clergy Fellowship Concerned with Human Rights", defined in a resolution adopted by the churchmen attending the mid-December meeting which constituted the fellowship, are to call for a "Christian stance in the face of violations of human rights" and to aid political prisoners and their families in distress.

The resolution affirmed that "wherever human rights are suppressed or violated by the government, churches have a duty to work for the defence of human rights, especially of the oppressed. We believe that the whole question of the mission of the church is involved in this issue. We urge churches to work for the rights of the people of India to participate in their own development."

The statement called attention to the arrest and detention without trial of thousands because of their political convictions, the curtailment of fundamental rights, freedom of speech and press, and the banning of public meetings and peaceful demonstrations. It warned "we see also signs of the internal autonomy of the church being affected".

Quoting the late Metropolitan Yuhanon Mar Thoma's last political testament, the statement pointed out that "the procedures adopted to institutionalize this total denial of human rights through drastic amendments to the constitution by a parliament whose period is already expired amounts to a total disregard for people's right to self-determination".

When a government, instead of preserving human rights, uses its power to neglect them, it moves "against God's will for justice and love", and the "church is called upon to discern situations and take a definite stance in the face of dictatorial tendencies on the part of the state". The statement further charged that "the authoritarian trend as witnessed in India is a calculated move to safeguard the interest of a dominant class aimed at perpetuating unjust structures".

"The church's fear and inability to take a bold stance in the face of violation of human rights amount to failure in its mission," the statement warned. It deplored a tendency on the part of churches to go on record in support of the government by pledging "unflinching loyalty" to the party in power. This, the statement said, "amounts to idolatry". However, it pointed out "there is a voice of dissent in the Indian Church" which gives expression to concern for human rights and "leads us into the struggle of the poor and oppressed both within and outside the church". Pointing out that "the concern for human rights transcends national boundaries" the Fellowship affirmed its solidarity with ecumenical bodies in their actions supporting the struggle for human rights and welcomed and encouraged "bold steps" on their part "in the face of violation of basic human rights as happening in India".

The clergymen attending the opening meeting came from the Church of South India, the Mar Thoma Church, the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Jacobite Syrian Church, the Chaldean Syrian Church and the Roman Catholic Church.



WCC APPEALS TO ARGENTINA FOR  
SAFETY OF ABDUCTED CHURCHMAN

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches appealed January 3 to President Jorge Rafael Videla of Argentina to take urgent steps to find Dr Mauricio Lopez, well known ecumenical leader, who was kidnapped from his home in Mendoza on New Year's Day. A cable signed by WCC general secretary Philip A. Potter said that the kidnapping had provoked "deep concern and alarm among ecclesiastical circles the world over". Dr Lopez was recently appointed Professor of Philosophy in the Institute of Theological Studies in Buenos Aires. He was from 1963 to 1967 an associate in the WCC's Department of Church and Society in Geneva, and is a member of the Commission on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies.

Dr Potter's cable was also sent to the chief of police in the town of Mendoza; the governor of Mendoza Province, Sr Jorge Sixto Fernandez; the Minister of the Mendoza Government, Commodore Ramirez Dolan; and the Chief Command of the Eighth Infantry Brigade in Mendoza. At the same time Dr Potter informed UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim of the abduction and asked for his support in efforts "to ensure Dr Lopez' safety".

Meanwhile, church and government circles in the United States, the Netherlands, France and in other countries have similarly expressed their concern about the kidnapping in urgent appeals sent to government authorities and church leaders in Argentina.

EPS

DR S.M. CAVERT, ECUMENICAL  
PIONEER, DIES IN NEW YORK

Geneva (EPS) - News of the death of Dr Samuel McCrea Cavert on December 21 in New York at the age of 88 was received with many expressions of regret at the World Council of Churches. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft, first WCC general secretary, called Dr Cavert one of the chief architects of the ecumenical movement. He recalled that it was Dr Cavert who proposed the name "World Council of Churches" in 1937 in the course of discussions to give the ecumenical movement a more definite and permanent structure.

Dr Visser 't Hooft said he owed a great deal to Dr Cavert and "his deep conviction about the significance of the ecumenical movement, his wise judgement, his loyalty to colleagues have meant much in my years of service in the ecumenical movement". Dr Konrad Raiser, acting general secretary, sent a message of condolence to Dr Cavert's widow on behalf of the WCC.

EPS

TANZANIAN LEADER URGES GREATER  
ROLE FOR CHURCHES IN DEVELOPMENT

Dar es Salaam (EPS) - Prime Minister Rashidi Kawawa of Tanzania has asked his country's regional development directors to involve church leaders in committees discussing new development projects. The directive was issued in a letter addressed to the directors overseeing projects in the 20 mainland regions.

Mr Kawawa urged that church leaders be encouraged to acquaint themselves with both short-range and long-range development plans. He noted that church-financed projects play an important role in the country's development and suggested that every effort be made to involve the churches in new programmes.

EPS

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AACC - All Africa Conference of Churches  
CCIA - Commission of the Churches on International Affairs  
CCPD - Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development  
CEC - Conference of European Churches  
CICARWS - Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service  
CMC - Christian Medical Commission  
CWME - Commission on World Mission and Evangelism  
EEC - European Economic Community  
GDR - German Democratic Republic  
ICYE - International Christian Youth Exchange  
LWF - Lutheran World Federation  
SODEPAX - Committee on Society, Development and Peace  
WARC - World Alliance of Reformed Churches  
WCC - World Council of Churches  
WSCF - World Student Christian Federation  
YMCA - Young Men's Christian Association  
YWCA - Young Women's Christian Association



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# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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AACC HEAD CALLS FOR ORGANIC  
UNITY OF AFRICA BY 1984

Nairobi (EPS) - The general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, Canon Burgess Carr, has called for the organic unity of Africa by 1984. Towards this end, he urged the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to set up a special "think tank", comprising Africa's best minds, to think and plan the kind of continental organization that can come into effect by 1984.

He warned that Africa faces costly risks if she does not unite by 1984, the 100th anniversary of the Berlin conference which carved Africa into pieces.

The Canon predicted that "...if we do not set in motion the process of uniting this continent into one people, the super powers and not-so-super powers will convene another conference in 1984/85, this time to partition Africa into client-vassal states."

The evidence for this prediction is plentiful, he said, and referred to the strategy being contrived by the United States and its NATO allies to resolve the current problems in South and Southern Africa. "There exists," the Canon warned, "a grand design to ensure that Zimbabwe and Namibia become 'bantustans' of South Africa at worst, or that they become vassal states of South Africa at best, in order to secure the West's vested interests in the usurped and stolen privileges which the white minorities have plundered from our people."

In his New Year's Day address to the staff of the AACC in Nairobi, Canon Carr also called for the convening of an extraordinary summit of the OAU, to declare war on Rhodesia by all of Africa, and to signal a warning to those Africans fighting on the side of the rebel regime in Rhodesia that they are enemies of African liberation and are doing so at their own peril.

The Canon further urged African states to increase their aid to the liberation movements. African nations should give more concrete assistance to the "frontline states" - Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia - because, he said, "developments have passed the stage when they alone have the capacity to cope."

He predicted that if Africa declared war on Rhodesia, in three days Zimbabwe will be liberated and an African high command would then set in motion the procedure for the transfer of power to black majority rule.

In support of the urgent demand for African organic unity, Canon Carr said the AACC would begin this year, through all its education and communication programmes, to propagate intensely this consciousness that all of us belong to Africa. He said organic unity will bring about more development, it will lead to the eradication of tribal and ethnic tensions which, he said, are tearing our societies apart. Organic unity would also protect Africa against the neo-colonialist intentions of the West.

The general secretary listed hunger and unemployment as two critical concerns which must claim the urgent attention of the churches of Africa. It is estimated, he said, that in the next 20 years of human history - 1980-2000 - the greatest problem facing mankind will be hunger. He warned that the major producers of food, particularly the United States and South Africa, would be sure to use food as a political and economic weapon.

The challenge to the churches is to divest themselves of the land that they possess and give it to the landless to grow food, he asserted.

(more)



Turning to unemployment, Canon Carr said the emphasis of African governments on education since independence has produced tens of millions of educated young people, who cannot find work, or even places in the institutions of higher learning. There is no better prescription for anarchy and chaos in African societies, he warned.

The general secretary said he would seek the approval of AACC officers to set up a task force to develop programmes and programme strategies which will enable the churches of Africa to cope with the challenges of the eighties.

It may be necessary, he said, to institute a fund, with a target figure of from \$10 million to \$25 million which will be used by the churches for such things as rural agriculture, nutrition, community health, for establishing polytechnics and other programmes of technical education and retraining, and for providing second career opportunities for people whose skills can no longer support them.

EPS

#### VISSER 'T HOOFT TO BE AWARDED HANSEATIC GOETHE PRIZE

Hamburg (EPS) - The Hanseatic Goethe Prize for 1977 of the Freiherr vom Stein Foundation in Hamburg will be awarded to Dr Willem A. Visser 't Hooft, Honorary President of the World Council of Churches. In making the announcement, the foundation said it wanted to honour a man whose life had been devoted to interreligious reconciliation and mediation. The prize, worth 25,000 German marks, will be awarded at ceremonies in Hamburg on February 11.

Dr Visser 't Hooft was general secretary of the World Student Christian Federation from 1932-38 and served until 1966 as general secretary of the WCC. The Hanseatic Goethe Prize is awarded for humanitarian endeavours "in the spirit of Johann Wolfgang Goethe". It carries with it a one-year 5,000 Mark scholarship at a West German university for which the applicant may be chosen by the current year's prize-winner.

EPS

#### WOMEN'S ORDINATION ENDANGERS CHURCH UNITY EFFORTS

Rome (EPS) - The most recent ordination of a 40-year-old mother of four in Indianapolis by the Episcopal Church poses a series obstacle to ecumenical dialogue and the quest for unity between the churches, according to Father Gino Concetti, Franciscan theologian and an editor of the Vatican City newspaper "Osservatore Romano".

Commenting on the ordination January 12 of Jacqueline Allene Means in Indianapolis, Father Concetti said "the ordaining of women priests adds to the obstacles to Christian unity, instead of diminishing them". He reiterated Pope Paul's statement in a letter on November 30, 1975 to Archbishop Donald Coggan of Canterbury that the ordination of women priests introduced "an element of grave difficulty" to ecumenical dialogue and Christian unity. The archbishop had written to the Pope informing him of "the slow but steady growth of a consensus of opinion within the Anglican Communion that there are no fundamental objections in principle to the ordination of women to the priesthood."

In reply, Pope Paul summarized the the Catholic Church's position that "it is not admissible to ordain women to the priesthood for very fundamental reasons. These reasons include the example recorded in the Holy Scripture of Christ choosing his Apostles only from among men; the constant practice of the Church, which has imitated Christ in choosing only men; and his living, teaching authority which has consistently held that the exclusion of women from the priesthood is in accordance with God's plan for his Church."

(more)

Commenting on the papal letter, Father Concetti said Pope Paul was not motivated by "prejudice" or by socially induced attitudes towards women, but by "fundamental" theological reasons. The Catholic Church is not alone in this position, "it is supported in this by the Oriental churches," he added.

EPS

#### ECUMENICAL LEADERS AWARDED DOCTORATES IN BUCHAREST

Bucharest (EPS) - The Theological Institute in Bucharest of the Rumanian Orthodox Church has conferred the title of Doctor Honoris Causa on ten personalities from the religious world for "their activities and achievements in the field of theological research, the life of the Church and in international Christian organizations". The awards ceremony January 15 marked the first time since 1949 that honorary doctorates were awarded by a theological institute in Rumania. Professor Mircea Chialda, rector of the Institute, termed the event "a modest contribution of the Rumanian theology to the strengthening of the ecumenical relationship".

This desire to contribute to ecumenical theological research was reflected in the church leaders honoured: His Holiness Patriarch Justinian, spiritual head of the Rumanian Orthodox Church since 1948; Canon Macdonald A. Allchin, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral; Professor Olivier Clément, professor at St Serge Orthodox Institute in Paris; Bishop Gordon H. Hill of the Anglican Diocese of Kingston, Ontario; Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople; Professor Nikos Nissiotis, Dean of the Theological Faculty, Athens University; Mgr Wilhelm Nyssen, professor at the University of Cologne; Bishop Mervyn Stockwood of Southwark, London. The choice of Archbishop Olof Sundby, Primate of the Lutheran Church of Sweden and one of the Presidents of the World Council of Churches, and the Rev. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, underlined the importance attached by the Theological Institute of Bucharest to the ecumenical movement.

The increasing importance of this Institute and a similar one in Sibiu in the life of the Rumanian Orthodox Church by training its future leaders are the result of unceasing efforts by Patriarch Justinian to make theological research a vital element of the church's active participation in society and of the quest for unity in the ecumenical movement.

Present at the ceremony were representatives of the Institute, the Church and the State including Mr Gheorghe Nenciu, president of the Religious Affairs Department. During their stay in Rumania the recipients of the doctorates gave lectures in Bucharest and Sibiu on subjects concerned with the theological contribution of the Orthodox tradition and existing relations between their confessions and Orthodoxy.

The Rumanian Orthodox Church with about 15 million members in a population of 20 million administers, in addition to the theological institutes at the university level in Bucharest (450 students) and Sibiu (700 students), seven seminaries with a total of 1,400 students. Some 11,000 priests and monks serve in 10,000 parishes.

EPS





ONLY HOPE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN S. AMERICA  
RESTS IN CHURCHES AND WORLD OPINION

Lima (EPS) - Only the Roman Catholic Church and pressure brought to bear by foreign governments, international organizations and world church groups, has helped "modify ruthless repression" of some 180 million people by military regimes in Latin America, according to a Latin America Press report. The report said that national security is the "political doctrine or ideology" being used by Latin American armed forces to take control of government. It is "applied to all facets of national life, economics and culture as well as politics". These nations believe they are in a state of war against international communism and that human rights may be sacrificed as a price for the state's survival.

The report quotes Father Jose Comblin, a Latin American political expert, as saying that "the key to understanding what is happening in South America today" is the broad concept of national security. He claims that Latin America's military politicians developed national security into a new version of state. Its thesis, he says, that people are at the service of the state and not the reverse breaks with the political theory of the Western world.

The Catholic Church has emerged as the "only organization strong enough to oppose the national security concept of state absolutism" in countries where constitutional guarantees have been suspended, labour unions shut down, universities tightly controlled, the press censored and political parties either outlawed or restricted, the report holds.

In Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, for example, the Church's defence of human rights "has proved embarrassing to military rulers who see themselves allied with the Church in safeguarding Christian values," the report observed. It added that military leaders - as well as some conservative churchmen and affluent Christians - consider opposition clergy and hierarchy "as Marxist infiltrators or mindless dupes of communism".

"Another factor helping to modify ruthless oppression has been the pressure brought to bear by the governments of North America and Western Europe, the United Nations, and international organizations such as Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists and world church groups which have been monitoring the decaying human rights situation in Latin America," said the report.

It noted that the US Congress last year issued warnings to Argentina and Paraguay on respect for human rights and cut military aid to Chile and Uruguay because of human rights violations.

EPS

ZAIRE CHURCHES TO RECRUIT  
PERSONNEL FOR SCHOOLS

Kinshasa (EPS) - The President of the Church of Christ of Zaire, the Rev. T. Bokeleale, said the churches will now start recruiting personnel for the schools which the government has returned following a take-over that lasted nearly two years. At the same time he denied that the schools were returned for economic reasons but because of the decline of morals and discipline in educational institutions.

Since the take-over, Mr Bokeleale said, there had been public concern over the decline morals and discipline in the schools. Reversal of the decision showed the confidence the government as well as the people of Zaire have in the church. Personnel to staff the schools will first be recruited from within Zaire but also, if necessary, from abroad. He said the Zairean Government had promised to subsidize teachers who may be recruited from abroad.

EPS



JAPANESE BISHOPS ACKNOWLEDGE  
WOMEN'S RIGHT TO PRIESTHOOD

Tokyo (EPS) - While acknowledging there is no fundamental reason against the ordination of women on biblical grounds, the bishops of the Anglican Church in Japan have agreed that the necessary steps for admitting women to the priesthood must await a sufficient understanding of the issue at the parochial, diocesan, and provincial level.

In a carefully worded statement, the Japanese bishops acknowledge "the need for a free exchange of opinion" but warn "against the danger of division and schism within the Anglican Communion arising from disagreement". They advocate that the discussion of the issue "should also proceed on the ecumenical plane".

Admitting women to the priesthood entails more than a mere addition of women to the office up to now reserved for men, but also a reexamination of the role of priesthood in the Church, from which there would emerge a new ministry which goes beyond the distinction of the sexes, in the bishops' view.

Although the existing social status of women should not unduly influence the question of women's ordination, the bishops felt that proper attention should be paid to the cultural and social condition in which the Church exists.

EPS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PROCLAIMS  
"PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE YEAR"

London (EPS) - Amnesty International, the human rights organization has declared 1977 "Prisoner of Conscience Year" during which attention will be focused on the world's estimated half a million prisoners of conscience. The year will represent an important stage in the world-wide campaign for human rights, with protests being made against continued violations of human rights and fundamental freedom in many parts of the world, and against the use of political persecution, torture and murder as methods of governing.

The organization will coordinate a world-wide appeal to the United Nations and "all governments" asking for the immediate release of all women and men incarcerated because of their religious or political commitment. Amnesty International was founded 15 years ago as a private, non-governmental human rights movement. It is independent of any political, ideological or religious grouping. Its work over the years for the release of men and women imprisoned for beliefs, colour, language, ethnic origin or religion has achieved results in many countries.

EPS

WCC FILM ON NAIROBI  
WINS HOLLYWOOD AWARD

Los Angeles (EPS) - "To Be United and Free", the film report of the WCC Fifth Assembly in Nairobi, received a citation at the Hollywood Festival of World Television and was selected for the Festival's list. John Taylor, director for audio-visual arts of the WCC, who produced the film together with Viznews of London, was honoured at the festival for his "contribution to international understanding through the media". A shorter (18 minutes) version of the film will soon become available. John Taylor is currently on a sabbatical as "visiting ecumenical scholar" at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

EPS

LATE BISHOP LILJE LAUDED  
AS "TRULY ECUMENICAL MAN"

Loccum, West Germany (EPS) - Bishop Hanns Lilje, one of the pioneers of the ecumenical movement who helped pave the way for reconciliation between the churches of Germany and those of other countries, was buried here in the presence of German and international church leaders. He had died in Hanover on January 6 at the age of 77.

Bishop Lilje headed the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover from 1947 until his retirement in 1971. From 1955-69 he was presiding bishop of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany, a federation of eight territorial Lutheran bodies. He was president of the Lutheran World Federation from 1952-57. A member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches since its formation in 1948, Bishop Lilje was a WCC co-president from 1968-75.

Jailed by the Nazis in 1944 for preaching "inner resistance", and because of his ties to a group which attempted to assassinate Adolf Hitler, Bishop Lilje was sentenced to death. The Allies' victory saved him from execution.

Under the title of Johannes XI, Bishop Lilje was the lifetime Abbot of Loccum near Hanover. He was buried at the monastery beside the grave of his wife. In a tribute to him, the World Council of Churches said that Bishop Lilje "was a truly ecumenical man, concerned with the world of people struggling to be authentic human beings". The statement eulogized him as a "roving apostle of the Word of Grace and Truth throughout the world. This has been perhaps his most outstanding contribution - to widen the fellowship of believers who share the grace of God with courage and with humour."

Dr Freudenberg dies

The death of Dr Adolf E. Freudenberg, one of the earliest staff executives of the World Council of Churches in the years of its formation, occurred on January 7 in Bad Vilbel, West Germany. Dr Freudenberg was the first Secretary for Refugees and for Reconstruction from 1938-47. A service was held in the chapel of the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva on January 13 in memory of Bishop Lilje and Dr Freudenberg.

EPS

GERMAN, KENYAN YMCAs ACCEPT  
WOMEN AS MEMBERS

Kassel (EPS) - The executive committee of the National Council of YMCAs in Germany has ruled that women and girls may now become full members. The German YMCA, while maintaining its initials will change its name from "Christlicher Verein Junger Männer" (Young Men's Christian Association) to "Christlicher Verein Junger Menschen" (Young People's Christian Association).

At the same time, Joel Kinagwi, National General Secretary of the Kenya YMCA, reports that the organization's constitution has been amended to allow women to be eligible for full membership in the YMCA. "This decision is historic because for a long time the YMCA leaders had opposed a move to have women admitted as full members," Mr Kinagwi said.

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ECUMENICAL CALENDAR 1977

January

January 10-15	Renewal and Congregational Life Sub-unit Core Group	Geneva
January 17-22	Consultation for Church Women Executives	Glion (Switzerland)
January 18-22	CCIA Preparatory "Brainstorming" meeting on Militarism/ Armaments Race	Geneva
January 24-28	DFI Core Group Meeting	Glion (Switzerland)
January 23-25	CCPD Workshop on Transnational Corporations	Geneva
January 27-29	FRRRI Committee meeting	Vientiane (Laos)
January 30-February 11	WSCF General Assembly	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
January 31-February 2	Meeting of the Joint Committee Consilium Conferentiarum Episcopalium Europae/Conference of European Churches	Marseille (France)
January 31-February 5	CCPD Workshop on Alternative Lifestyles	Glay (France)

February

February 1-5	Faith and Order meeting on Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Turin (Italy)
February 4-9	CWME Core Group meeting	Geneva
February 10-11	CCPD Indonesia Consortium	Geneva
February 12-14	WSCF Executive Committee	Colombo (Sri Lanka)
February 14-18	WCC Executive Committee	Geneva
February 19-20	YMCA Executive Group, Standing Committee on Refugees and Rehabilitation	Geneva
February 20	YMCA Executive Group, Standing Committee on Finance	Geneva
February 20-23	DFI Christian-Jewish Meeting on Creation and Science	Zürich
February 21-23	YMCA President's Committee	Geneva
February ?	CCIA Advisory Group on Human Rights in the Helsinki Area	place unknown

March

March 7-13	Member Church Consultation "Europe after Helsinki and the Developing Regions"	Gallneukirchen/ Linz (Austria)
March 20-24	Faith and Order meeting on Giving Account of the Hope that is in us	Bossey (near Geneva)
March 23-26	Meeting of Joint Conference of European Churches/ Christian Peace Conference Study Group	Hadersdorf/Vienna (Austria)
March 28-April 10	Ecumenical Institute Seminar on Orthodox and Eastern Spirituality	Bossey (near Geneva)
March 28-April 1	CCPD Workshop on Culture and Development	place unknown
March-April	WSCF Consultation on Women in the Struggle for African Liberation	place unknown

April

April 13-15	CCIA Working Group on Human Rights Advisory Group	place unknown
April 15-17	Unit II Executive Committee	Geneva
April 17-23	CICARWS Commission meeting	Geneva
April 17-23	CMC Commission meeting	Geneva
April 17-23	CCIA Commission meeting	Geneva
April 17-23	CCPD Commission meeting	Geneva
April 17-23	PCR Commission meeting	Geneva
April 18-27	DFI Theological Consultation on Dialogue in Community	Chiengmai (Thailand)
April 19-23	Joint Meeting of CEC Presidium and Advisory Committee	Rumania ?

April (cont.)

April 25-29	Unit III: Meeting of Ad-Hoc Committee on Church-Sponsored Schools programme	Cartigny (near Geneva)
April ?	CWME meeting of European Pastors in Big Cities	Helsinki
April ?	Regional Youth Secretaries' meeting	Geneva

May

May 1-9	CCPD Development Education Seminars for national groups	Bossey (near Geneva)
May 2-6	WCC Week of Meetings	Geneva
May 4-9	WSCF European Student Pastors Conference	Rottensels (FRG)
May 9-14	WCC Communications Department Core Group	Geneva or Moscow
May 20-24	Faith and Order Toronto Continuation Committee on Church Union	Geneva
May 20-25	Ecumenical Institute Board Meeting	Bossey (near Geneva)
May 26-30	CWME Education for Mission meeting	Denmark
May 30-June 4	Faith and Order Evaluation Consultation - Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry	Lausanne
*May ?	Unit III Consultation on Congregational Life	Geneva
*May ?	Pacifique '77: PCC Conference on Development	New Hebrides

June

June 1-8	CWME meeting on Orthodox Diaspora	New York
June 3-18	CCPD Clergy-Laity Seminar - orientation on ecumenical topics, development education	Bossey (near Geneva)
June 6-10	CCPD consultation on Transnational Corporations	Bossey (near Geneva)
June 16-20	Unit III: Meeting of Coordinating Committee of Family Power Project	London
*June 16-20	DFI churches' consultation on Jewish People	Jerusalem
June 19-July 1	YWCA Executive Committee	Bossey (near Geneva)
June 20-25	CCPD "Reverse" Consortium	Netherlands
June 29-July 6	YMCA 7th World Council	Buenos Aires
June ?	Church and Society Consultation on Science, Ideology and Faith	place unknown

July

July 2-8	Colloquium with African and Asian theologians on the theme "Confessing Christ in Different Cultures"	Bossey (near Geneva)
July 7-11	TEF Committee	Bromley (UK)
*July 10-24	Course on "The Gospel and International Life"	Bossey (near Geneva)
July 11-16	Church and Society Theological Discussion of Man and Nature	Geneva?
July 17-22	Church and Society Working Committee, with special emphasis on Faith, Science and Technology	Geneva?
July 18-22	Unit III Committee and Working Groups	Geneva
July 18-24	Faith and Order Standing Commission	Loccum (FRG)
*July 25-27	WCC Executive Committee	Geneva
July 28-August 6	WCC Central Committee	Geneva
July-August	WSCF Asian Secretaries Formation (First Session)	Tokyo
July-August	WSCF International Brigade to Cuba	Havana
*July ?	PCR Latin American Indian Consultation	Latin America



August

August 19-22	Augmented WARC Executive Committee	St Andrews (UK)
August 22-28	St Andrews Centenary Consultation	St Andrews (UK)
August 23-28	WCC Consultation on Woman and Psychology	place unknown
August 25-September 4	Youth Consultation on Christian Witness for Social Justice	Bossey (near Geneva)
August 29-30	Augmented WARC Executive Committee	St Andrews (UK)
August 30-31	DFI Liaison and Planning Committee with IJCIC	Geneva

September

September 5-9	Renewal and Congregational Life Preparatory Consultation on "The Experience of the Holy Spirit Today"	Ireland
September 6-9	CWME meeting of European Evangelism Secretaries	Frankfurt
September 27-October 1	Seminar for Jewish and Christian Students on the Authority of Scripture for Jews and Christians Today	Bossey (near Geneva)
*September ?	Church and Society consultation on Energy for a Just and Sustainable Society	place unknown
September ?	WCC European Women's Consultation	place unknown
September ?	WSCF International Conference for Orthodox Students	Athens or Crete
September ?	WSCF Theological Consultation on the Darmstadt Declaration	Darmstadt (FRG)

October

October 1-10	Unit III: Meeting of Regional Education Secretaries	Geneva
October 3-7	Sessions for Pastors of Different Confessions from Western Switzerland	Bossey (near Geneva)
October 3-8	Member Church Consultation "Rediscovery of the Community of the Churches - Conciliarity - the Way forward?" (CEC)	Sofia
October 11-14	Unit III: Meeting of National Correspondents for Scholarships Programme	Geneva
October 13-February 28 1978	26th Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies - "Power, Church and State"	Bossey (near Geneva)
October 17-22	Consultation on the Bible and Theology in the work of laity centres, academies and movements - with the participation of the sub-unit on Renewal and Congregational Life	Naramata, Canada
October 27-29	Meeting of CEC Presidium	Manchester (UK)
October 28-November 4	WSCF European Students Conference	Athens
October 31-November 4	WCC Week of Meetings	Geneva
*October ?	Faith and Order Teaching Authority Consultation	place unknown
October ?	WSCF European Women's Conference	Femo (Denmark)
October ?	CCPD Workshop on "The Church and the Poor"	place unknown
October ?	WSCF Consultation on Women in the Arab world	place unknown

November

November 16-23	Assembly of Caribbean Conference of Churches	Caribbean
November ?	CCIA Consultation on Militarism	place unknown

Autumn

CICARWS Officers meeting
CCPD Ecumenical Pastors convent for pastors serving in poor congregations
*CCIA Human Rights Full advisory Group
Unit III Ad hoc Advisory Committee on Family Ministries

Autumn (cont.)

- \*DFI Christian-Muslim Consultation
- \*DFI meeting on Response to Regional Initiatives
- \*DFI meeting on Ideologies
- Unit III: Meeting of Coordinating Committee and Consultants,  
Family Power Project

Place and Date Unknown

- \*PCR, CCA and ACC Consultation on Aboriginal Land Rights      Australia
- \*Unit III Consultation on International Year of the Child  
and Churches Ministry to Children
- \*Church and Society Small Exploratory Consultation or  
Workshop on Risk Assessment and Appropriate Technology
- \*Church and Society (?) Theological and Ethical Dilemmas  
in the Biological Manipulation of Human Life
- \*Renewal and Congregational Life, one or more consultations  
on Renewal and Congregational Life

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\* These meetings will take place only if funds are available

Abbreviations

ACC	Australian Council of Churches
CCA	Christian Conference of Asia
CCIA	Churches' Commission on International Affairs
CCPD	Churches' Commission on Participation in Development
CEC	Conference of European Churches
CICARWS	Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service
CMC	Christian Medical Commission
CWME	Commission on World Mission and Evangelism
DFI	Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
FRRRI	Fund for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Indo-china
IJCIC	Inter-Jewish Committee on Inter-religious Consultations
PCC	Pacific Conference of Churches
PCR	Programme to Combat Racism
TEF	Theological Education Fund
UK	United Kingdom
WARC	World Alliance of Reformed Churches
WCC	World Council of Churches
WSCF	World Student Christian Federation
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association



# EPS

# Ecumenical Press Service

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US CHURCH GROUPS, LONDON COUNCIL  
ACT AGAINST LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Geneva (EPS) - Within two days early this week US church groups and an important urban administrative council in England supported by the British churches moved against continued loans to the Government of South Africa and any of its agencies.

A joint statement by 15 US church organizations on Monday (January 24) announced the filing of stockholder motions, requesting each of five banks to adopt a policy prohibiting loans to the Government of the Republic of South Africa "or any of its agencies or instrumentalities unless and until the South African Government has committed itself to ending the legally enforced form of racism called apartheid and has taken meaningful steps toward the implementation of full political, legal and social rights for the majority population (African, Asian, Coloured)."

On the following day (Tuesday, January 25) the Greater London Council (administrative body for the whole London area), announced that it had sponsored a shareholder resolution with the Midland Bank, asking the bank to develop a policy prohibiting loans to South Africa. The Council holds 200,000 shares worth over £500,000 in the Midland Bank. The resolution is supported by the British Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, Baptist and Roman Catholic groups in England. The Church of England has also indicated support of the resolution.

The "End Loans to Southern Africa" group (ELTSA) based in London, said that the support of the Greater London Council demonstrated the increasing distaste in Britain for the direct support of apartheid demonstrated by Midland, Barclays, Hill Samuel and other UK banks.

The American resolution was filed with the Citibank (formerly First National City Bank of New York), the Morgan Guaranty Trust, the Manufacturers Hanover Trust, the Continental Illinois Bank, and the First National Bank of Chicago. Churches, boards and agencies participating in the action include the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church in the US, the United Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the Lutheran Church in America, and a number of Roman Catholic orders. Union Theological Seminary in New York established a precedent for educational institutions by joining the action.

Tim Smith, head of the Interfaith Centre on Corporate Responsibility in the USA, who is attending an exploratory meeting in Geneva for the formation of a study/action programme on Transnational Corporations under World Council of Churches auspices, said: "These church investors are convinced that massive loans from American banks constitute a vote of confidence in South Africa's racist system of apartheid." He said that American banks have loaned approximately \$2 billion to South Africa over the last several years and "this economic support encourages South Africa's white minority government in the belief that they can count on economic and political support from western countries. As a result these banks become partners in apartheid. In addition recent loans directly to the central government help South Africa's military position and support the massive repression of the black protest movement that is spreading across South Africa.

The value of the combined church investments is estimated at \$10 million.

The Rev. Howard Schomer, world issues secretary of the United Church of Christ who is also attending the Geneva meeting, said "Bank loans to the South African Government and state corporations are a much worse form of complicity with apartheid than direct US industrial operations in that country.



CONFRONTATION LOOMS BETWEEN  
CATHOLICS AND S.A. GOVERNMENT

Johannesburg (EPS) - A drawn-out confrontation is building up between the Roman Catholic Church in South Africa and the government over the question of the admission by Catholic schools of African and Coloured children.

Schools in South Africa, according to the constitution, are strictly separated in terms of race. Thus, "white" schools are controlled by the provincial education authorities; "coloured" schools are controlled by the Department of Coloured Affairs; "Indian" schools are controlled by the Department of Indian Affairs and "African" schools are controlled by the Department of Bantu Education.

Now the Roman Catholics have become the first of several churches who have church schools operating within the system to lay down the gauntlet for the government simply by admitting blacks to their "white" designated schools.

The process of integrating Catholic schools began in February 1976 when the Catholic Bishops sanctioned the admission of black students subject to the discretion of each school's director. There are at present 200 Catholic schools with a total enrolment of 30,000 students and unobtrusively a great many have admitted black students in the course of last year.

The administrators of the Cape and Transvaal (the men who control education in these two provinces of the country) have made it clear that they will do everything in their power to prevent the situation continuing as it is. They have instructed the inspectors of schools to ascertain which have black pupils and have threatened to "de-register" the schools in question if they do not get rid of their present black pupils. In the event of such schools not acquiescing to the administrators' demands, they have threatened to prosecute the parents of white children for keeping their children at a "de-registered" multiracial school.

It all rings rather hollow in the face of several editorials coming from leading Afrikaans nationalist newspapers, and a statement by at least one nationalist politician, Senator Dennis Worrall, who have pleaded that the issue of education and the question of the admission of Blacks to so-called white schools be left to the local communities involved.

Furthermore, although the nationalist administrators have indicated that they will fight the Roman Catholic move, the man in charge of education in the Province of Natal, Roger Whiteley (a member of the United Party opposition), has gone on record as saying that he has no intention of taking action against Roman Catholic or any other private schools in that province who choose to admit Blacks to classes.

In the meantime the South African Council of Churches has issued a statement supporting the Roman Catholic Church in its move to do away with racial discrimination in its schools.

Questioned on January 25 on the state-controlled South African Broadcasting Corporation, the secretary general of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference, Father Dominic Scholten, reacted to a statement by the interviewer that the Catholic Church was operating on the outside of the law, by emphasizing that he believed the Church was operating within the moral law.

He reminded South Africa that when it had suited the government it had asked the Roman Catholic schools to admit the black children of diplomats such as those from Malawi, and lately from Transkei.

The administrator of the Transvaal, however, in a display of verbal gymnastics, has refuted this argument by saying that there are no black diplomats in South Africa, there are only diplomats.

CHURCH WOMEN EXECUTIVES CALL  
ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS

Glion, Switzerland (EPS) - A Consultation of Christian Church Women Executives, held here January 17-21, to plan strategies for a more effective role of women in church and society has called for massive social action on behalf of human rights.

Convened by the Women's Desk of the World Council of Churches' Unit on Education and Renewal, the meeting brought together 80 Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox church women executives from 43 countries.

Voicing deep concern about the violation of human rights in most nations, the consultation in a major statement expressed shock that so many governments have refused to sign the UN Convention of Human Rights while those that have signed it "have not maintained their commitment". The statement lists 18 forms of these violations with which participants were "personally familiar". These are: violation against the right to dissent; torture of political prisoners; prolonged detention without charges and imprisonment without trial; detention of innocent friends and relatives of political prisoners and activists as a means of pressuring activists into surrender; holding persons incommunicado; sexual abuse of women detainees by male guards and animals; secret trials, not open to the public; arbitrary censorship of the press; financial contributions to election campaigns by multi-national corporations; attempts by developed countries to destabilize countries that are struggling for self-determination; the rising tide of militarism; the lack of accountability of police to the society in police states; subtle and overt practices of sexism, racism and tribalism; violation of the right to human wellbeing through economic exploitation; violation of the right to religious freedom; demolition of squatters' settlements; killing of children as they publicly demonstrate against colonialism and injustice; manipulation of people by para-military organizations.

The statement called "upon each one of us present at the consultation, our organizations, our denominations, the World Council of Churches, our government and the United Nations to be active and vigilant in the pursuit of justice and human rights."

An accompanying paper on "Strategies for Action", urged as an immediate goal that church groups ask their respective countries to sign the UN Convention of Human Rights, that churches monitor closely the observance of the Human Rights Basket of the 1975 Helsinki Conference on European Security and Cooperation and that church groups conduct citizens' hearings on denial of rights. In these hearings, evidence should be gathered on the denial of emigration, refusal of visas, censorship of press, unlawful imprisonment without charges and trial etc. Copies of proceedings should be given to national representatives, to the media and to the churches. The paper expressed solidarity with political prisoners and urged church women to visit such prisoners, write to them and speak out on their behalf. Prison facilities, food, cells and regulations should be monitored and "in these ways, church women can translate into effective action the words of Jesus 'I was in prison and you visited me'," the statement urged.

The consultation adopted a set of recommendations designed to prepare women themselves congregations and church leadership for the greater role women are beginning to assume in church life and in society. New approaches to the counselling of women facing changes in their role should be encouraged, women should be freed from the idea that problems encountered in adjusting to a changing situation are indications of failure in living out their Christian faith, and ordained clergy should be trained to be prepared to minister to and counsel women in a changing world, these recommendations urged.

(more)



Also recommended: studies should be made of existing legal provisions for women and lawyers should be encouraged to aid in interpreting the law to women.

Women's groups in local churches were asked to invite ordained women to conduct services in order to familiarize congregations with women in a pastoral role.

The consultation saw the need for the setting up of a special fund for development projects related to women's needs and concerns. Such a fund should be administered by a committee which includes women in receiving as well as donor roles. The consultation saw as priorities for development projects for rural women: food, clothing, shelter, health and family planning and education, particularly in greater knowledge of the legal rights of women.

EPS

#### TREATMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN GERMANY DEPLORED BY BISHOP

Düsseldorf (EPS) - The treatment of foreign workers in Germany in times of economic recession and the growing pollution of the environment has been characterized as a violation of human rights "in our own country" by Bishop D. Hans Heinrich Harms. At a public discussion in the course of an ecumenical week in Düsseldorf, Bishop Harms warned against restricting the political particularly leftist views of public officials "because we could easily slip back into a police state". It is better to convince than to prohibit by force of law, in the Bishop's view.

Joint efforts on behalf of human rights on the part of the churches in all parts of the world are the most important current ecumenical task, Bishop Harms said. He said a possible by-product of such endeavours could be the development of a closer relationship between the different confessions than, for example, the eucharist. An example of this, he said, was the Second Vatican Council's statement on religious liberty which "markedly broadened the basis between the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church". Religious liberty is an important ingredient in the developing ecumenical movement itself and in the struggle for human rights, "because all rights culminate in religious liberty," he said.

EPS

#### ROMAN CATHOLICS ADD 20 NAMES TO LIST OF "MISSING" IN CHILE

Santiago (EPS) - The Vicariate of Solidarity, a Chilean Roman Catholic agency providing legal aid to political prisoners and economic assistance to needy persons, has added 20 more names to its list of missing persons who it charges were "detained or kidnapped" within the last four months of 1976. The Vicariate which was set up by Santiago's Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez has filed a brief with the Supreme Court demanding investigation of the fate of the victims.

The 20 bring to 435 the list of missing persons for which the agency says it has unassailable evidence of arrest or kidnapping by government security police. The brief charged that "the disappearance or kidnapping of persons has become a tragically habitual occurrence in our country in recent years".

The brief added that "the discovery of mutilated and unidentifiable bodies has become more and more frequent", and has stirred "justifiable alarm" among the relatives of missing persons. Similar briefs entered earlier before the Supreme Court by the Vicariate of Solidarity have been rejected.

EPS



# photo oikoumene

FEVRIER 1977

No 3







1921



1919



1920



1916





## HAI HUNG HOSPITAL: AN FRRRI PROJECT

Even before the guns had been silenced in Vietnam the World Council of Churches had begun to set up its Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina (FRRRI) to provide assistance during the post-war period. That was in 1972. To date, thanks to the support received from WCC member churches, the Fund has a total of US\$5,066,000 at its disposal. It is the instrument through which the churches express their solidarity with the suffering of the peoples in this area so severely affected by war, and contribute material and financial resources to reconciliation and reconstruction. The money has been allocated proportionately to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (although it has not yet proved possible to give on the spot aid to the latter).

One of the largest projects financed by the FRRRI in Indochina is the reconstruction of HAI HUNG HOSPITAL.

1915: The hospital was completely destroyed in the bombing and is now functioning in temporary accommodation, formerly living quarters. Situated about 60 km from Hanoi, it serves a population of 1.9 million and has a capacity at present of 325 beds.

1916-1917: Besides its large nursing staff it has no less than 90 doctors.

1918: The FRRRI has already contributed more than three-quarters of the pledged \$2 million in the form of medical equipment, technical installations and building materials. Work on the new buildings will start this year with help from the government and the province.

The health care system in Vietnam is organized as a pyramid, with the village health stations forming the base, up to major medical centres in the cities.

1919-1920: With this system it is possible to serve a population of whom about 75% live in rural areas, working in agriculture and still doing much of the labour manually.

1921: Street scene in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, where the bicycle is king.

1922: Christian presence in Hanoi: the parish of Tin Lanh belonging to the Evangelical Church which has 10,000 members in 40 parishes, with 30 pastors.

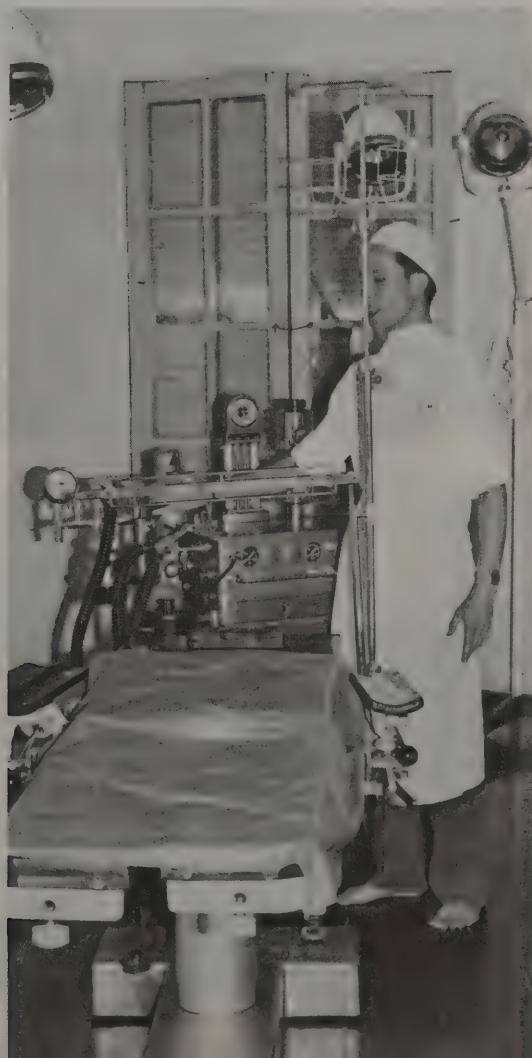
(WCC photos)



1915



1918



1922





# KOREANS IN SEARCH OF THEIR ROOTS

Some 10,000 Koreans live today in West Germany, having left Korea for economic and political reasons. Once in West Germany they often become disillusioned because of language difficulties and their uncertain future. The law relating to foreigners states they must leave after five years. There are also problems of integration often experienced by minorities in many countries.

1910: More than half the Koreans in West Germany work in hospitals.

1912: Their first contact with their surroundings is never easy.

1911: An uncertain future, the feeling of being a minority drives them to Koreans of the same religion.

1913: Services in Korean take place in various places in West Germany. This is Melanchton in Düsseldorf.

1914: A parish meeting in Advent.

Photos: H. Lachmann



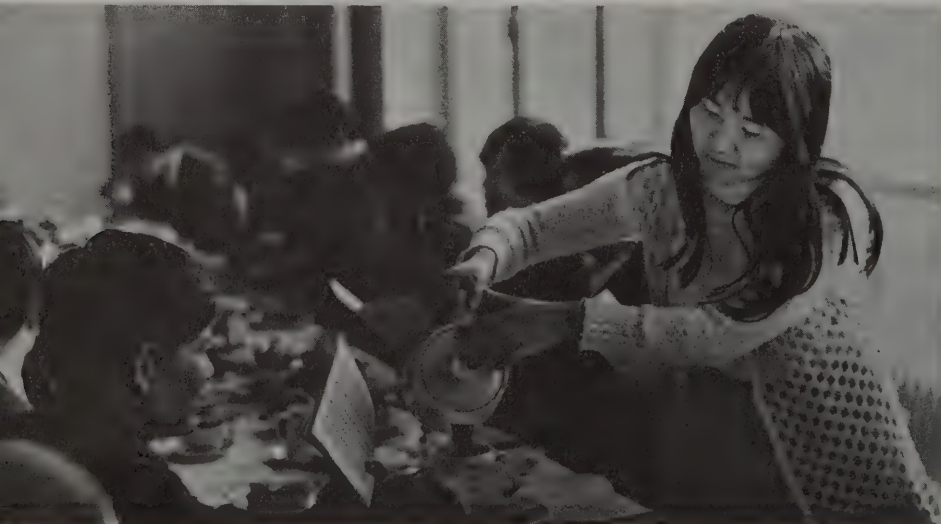
1913



1912



1914



# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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VATICAN FIRMLY OPPOSES WOMEN  
PRIESTS; ADVOCATES UNDETERRED

Rome (EPS) - The stepped-up Vatican campaign against efforts to admit women to the priesthood was prompted by the growing number of ordinations in other Christian churches and increasing sentiments for the change among Catholics themselves, it was brought out here at a press conference unveiling a new Vatican declaration. Significance was attached to the fact that the 6,000-word document, described as being the Vatican's firm and final decision against women priests, was released here on January 27, although it had been approved three months earlier - last October 15.

Publication of the declaration generated immediate and world-wide response. Despite the bitter cold, several dozen people demonstrated Sunday before St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York with placards saying "Ordain Women, or don't baptize them". The Rev. Richard McBrien, a Catholic theologian at Boston College, declared there is a division between the church leadership and the scholarly community because the Vatican's Pontifical Biblical Commission had concluded last April that there are no scriptural obstacles to ordaining women. The Rev. David Stanley, Canadian Jesuit, announced that he had resigned from the Commission because the Vatican declaration did not reflect the Commission's findings. He said the Commission's vote had been 12 for the ordination of women and five against.

However, the new doctrinal declaration maintained that women cannot be ordained because Jesus was a man and chose only male apostles. The document, among other things, claimed that because a priest "truly acts in the place of Christ" there should be a "natural resemblance" between Christ and His ministers in keeping with the "sacramental sign" of Holy Orders.

It also rejected the admission of women to the priesthood on the grounds of the equality of rights of the human person, stating that it is wrong to consider the ministerial priesthood as a "human right... The priesthood is not conferred for the honour or advantage of the recipient, but for the service of God and the Church..."

Sister Kathleen Keating, head of the National Assembly of Women Religious in the US said "the papacy has made statements before that have been reversed later". She noted that there also were no blacks, Orientals or gentiles among Jesus' apostles but that did not imply exclusion. Sister Margaret Traxler of Chicago, an officer of the National Coalition of American Nuns, called the new papal declaration only "darkness before the dawn" and said it would "not dampen women's call to the priesthood. We're on the threshold of a renewal of Christianity and ordination of women is going to bring it."

These comments were made in the face of statements by Father Louis Ligier, professor of sacred theology at Rome's Gregorian University, who, together with Father Roberto Tucci, director of Vatican Radio, and Msgr. Albert Descamps, secretary of the Pontifical Bible Commission, presented the Vatican document to the press on January 27. Father Ligier said there is little likelihood of the Roman Catholic Church changing its position on the question of the ordination of women priests during Pope Paul's pontificate or afterwards.

However Father Ligier added that the door was left open for the possible admission of women deacons. He said that the question of a diaconate for women would be studied closely to determine whether the original diaconate was sacramental or whether another form of diaconate adapted to the times could be introduced.

(more)

The possible effect of the document on ecumenical relations was brought up during the news conference when Father Tucci was asked why the Catholic Church could more easily tolerate the Anglican attitude toward married priests than acceptance of women priests. Father Tucci said that ordination has never been conferred on women in churches for whom ordination is a sacrament and that celibacy is only a rule for the Latin rite churches. The Apostle Peter was married and so celibacy was not a rule at the beginning of the church's existence, he noted.

The acceptance of women priests would cause an even greater problem for dialogue with the Orthodox churches, which Father Tucci pointed out, were considerably more conservative than the Roman Catholic Church. He also said that the Anglican Church was itself "seriously divided" over the question of women priests. He added that ten out of thirty-eight bishops at the last meeting of the General Synod of the Church of England were opposed to accepting women priests. He quoted Father Andrew Greeley, an American sociologist and newspaper columnist, on a recent survey of Catholic opinion in the United States which showed that 70 per cent of Catholics were opposed to women priests and of the 30 per cent in favour, more men than women wanted women priests.

Among supporters of the Vatican declaration was Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America. He said the document "echoes what the Church Universal believed and practised for 20 centuries". The Archbishop called it "an exhaustive study of the biblical theology" which provides the basis for theological discussion "which may help those who have erred to rediscover both their faith and the value of scriptural and ecclesiastical tradition, as well as the ability to appreciate and live in Christian truth."

EPS

#### MADRAS DIOCESE RECOMMENDS FAR-REACHING REFORMS

Madras (EPS) - Far-reaching reforms of outdated customs and social practices, equalization of church salaries, and use of church properties for the benefit of the poor, have been recommended by the Board of Mission and Evangelism of the Madras Diocese of the Church of South India. The diocese will also be the first of the 19 CSI dioceses to accept a woman priest when Ms Elizabeth Paul, now serving as a deaconess in a Madras church, is ordained.

Taking interreligious dialogue seriously, the diocese is currently negotiating with Hindu scholars to participate in regular classes for Christians in Hindu thought. The overall five-year programme of the Diocesan Council will focus on spiritual renewal, evangelism, social awareness, agriculture and the improvement of institutions.

Foremost among the reforms sought is one which prevails upon the church to distribute its unused property to the underprivileged for housing sites. Other recommendations: removal of existing disparities in the salaries of employees of church-related institutions and the introduction of salary ceilings; appointment by the Synod of a high-power committee to investigate Christian hospitals, colleges and schools which at present seem to cater chiefly to the needs of the well-to-do; and adoption by the church of a firm stand against black-marketeers.

The recommendations further ask for a uniform law of succession so that no one inherits more than a maximum of Rs100,000 in movable or immovable property; that daughters should share equally with sons in rights to parental property, and that weddings involving a dowry should not be permitted to take place in churches; that the caste system and communalism be eliminated and that those found appealing to caste sentiments during elections be barred from running for office.

EPS



RED CROSS APPEALS TO OPPOSING  
FORCES IN RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE

Geneva (EPS) - The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has appealed to leaders of the opposing forces in the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict to respect and to make their combatants apply in practice existing humanitarian laws in regard to the treatment of civilians caught in the fighting zones, the wounded and sick, and prisoners of war.

ICRC President Alexandre Hay said he made the appeal in view of the increasing number of victims caused by the armed struggle and the possible escalation in the fighting as prospects for a negotiated solution wane. He sent the appeal to Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe of the Patriotic Front, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Rev. Ndabaninghi Sithole and Prime Minister Ian Smith on January 14, coupled with the request that the ICRC be granted all facilities for visiting prisoners and for providing humanitarian assistance to civilian victims. Specifically mentioned in the communication to Mr Smith was the request to visit all nationalist fighters captured while bearing weapons and all other persons arrested in relation with the conflict (convicted prisoners and 30 to 60-day detainees) in addition to the administrative detainees being visited by ICRC delegates regularly over a number of years.

The appeal which was also sent to the British authorities and to the heads of state of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia urged observance of the following basic humanitarian principles:

1. Persons "hors de combat" and those taking no direct part in hostilities are entitled to respect for their life, and for their physical and moral dignity. They shall in all circumstances be protected and treated humanely, without any adverse distinction.
2. The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for by the party to the conflict which has them in its power. Protection also covers medical personnel, medical establishments, means of transport and equipment. The Red Cross is the emblem denoting that such protection must be given; it may not be displayed for any other purpose and shall always be respected.
3. It is forbidden to kill or wound an enemy who is "hors de combat" or who surrenders.
4. Prisoners of war and civilians in the power of the adverse party are entitled to respect for their life, their dignity, their family rights and their convictions, they shall be protected from any act of violence. They shall be entitled to exchange news with their families and to receive relief consignments.
5. Everyone shall enjoy basic judicial guarantees. No one shall be held responsible for an act he has not committed. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or degrading punishment or treatment.
6. Parties to a conflict and their armed forces do not have an unlimited choice of methods and means of warfare. It is forbidden to use weapons or any methods of warfare likely to cause unnecessary losses or suffering.
7. Parties to a conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants, in order to spare the population and civilian objects. They shall direct their attacks only against military objectives.

ROMAN CATHOLIC/METHODIST REPORT  
STRESSES COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS

London (EPS) - "At no other time has the worshipping life of Methodist and Roman Catholics had so much in common," according to the report of the second series of conversations between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Methodist Council (1972-75) which was published in London on January 27. Entitled "Growth in Understanding", the report was presented at the Dublin meeting of the World Methodist Council last August and commended for further study in both churches. It is now published jointly by the Methodist Ecumenical Committee and Catholic Information Services.

While it affirms common understandings in such areas as spirituality, salvation, the Eucharist, and the ministry, the report nevertheless acknowledges a "chief point of difference" concerning the question of the "transformation of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ".

Both churches see the Eucharist as the fullest presentation of God's love in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, as the commemoration of Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection and as the anticipation of his final triumph. But as yet Roman Catholics and Methodists are unable to agree regarding the nature of the eucharistic change, the sense in which sacrificial language is to be applied to the Eucharist, inter-communion, practices concerning the consecrated elements once the eucharistic celebration is over, whether the celebrant of the Eucharist is necessarily an ordained person, the ordination of women, and the place of the bishop in the church.

Considerable agreement is expressed on what ordination is and what it does, and also on the essential nature of the ministry. It takes a constructive approach to the use of the term "priest" and to the nature of the difference between ordained and lay.

In the chapter on common witness and salvation today, both churches affirm the close relationship between social and personal salvation. The report contains a strong appeal for cooperation at every level.

The small international commission responsible for the report was headed by Bishop William Cannon of the United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, and Bishop Michael Bowen of Arundel and Brighton, Roman Catholic.

EPS

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS BY ACADEMIC  
ABILITY ONLY, ANGLICANS RULE

Johannesburg (EPS) - The future basis for admission to private schools run by the Anglican Church in South Africa will be academic ability rather than race, a statement issued by the church at the end of January declared. The previously all-white schools will from now on also admit black and coloured children.

The decision to open up the schools was taken by the church at a session of its Synod last December. The announcement was made in the midst of wide publicity about the Roman Catholic school integration (see EPS no. 3/77, January 27).

By their actions, the churches have incurred the wrath of the South African authorities. Last week the Administrator of Cape Province, Mr. Lapa Munnik, threatened to close down and de-register schools that admitted non-white children. After meeting with the Archbishop of Capetown, Dr Bill Burnett, and a delegation from the Anglican Church, Mr Munnik is reported to have taken a softer line. He hinted that the Government might consider altering the regulations governing admission to private schools.

EPS



ROGER SCHUTZ OF TAIZE CALLS  
FOR TRUE RECONCILIATION

Zürich (EPS) - Brother Roger Schutz of the Taize Community closed this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Zurich on February 1 with a ringing appeal for definite reconciliation between Christians of all confessions before an overflow audience of 4,000 in Grossmünster Cathedral.

Reading a text he had composed jointly with Mother Teresa in Calcutta last December, the Prior of Taize challenged his listeners with the question: "For so many years we have talked of the ecumenical vocation of Christians, of universality, the ecumenicity of the churches; can we honestly carry on talking about it if we are not aiming for a concrete reconciliation?"

Real rapprochement will require renouncing differences, freeing "ourselves from fears, giving the best of ourselves and accepting the best of the other, loving each other as Jesus loves us," he urged. In language full of warmth and understanding, Brother Roger said the special gifts the Catholic Church can contribute is that of the Eucharist, "a link of unanimity of faith, like an underground river running through its history"; that of the Protestant churches is the "continuous search of the Scriptures for an immediate source to live for God in the midst of society," and that of the Orthodox churches is their historic "faith which leads them to strive for the ultimate love."

The invitation to Brother Roger to celebrate the final observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from the same pulpit from which Ulrich Zwingli had preached, signified a desire on the part of the churches on the Canton of Zürich for even closer collaboration with the Council of Youth which the Prior of Taize had initiated three years ago. This demonstrated the increasing interest with which the Council of Youth is received at the parish level, observers said.

EPS

SOUTH AFRICAN METHODISTS REAFFIRM  
OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID

Johannesburg (EPS) - The Conference of the Methodist Church of South Africa has acknowledged the concern regarding apartheid expressed in a resolution by the World Methodist Council at Dublin last August. The communication said the church is "deeply grieved at the recent riots in South Africa and the deaths consequent thereupon. We acknowledge in all this a judgement upon us."

In response to the WMC resolution, the communication stated "we have asserted our rejection of apartheid and striven for a united Church. In some measure we have succeeded, but insofar as we have failed we are constantly seeking to put our own house in order". The church has taken steps to equalize salaries, eliminate racial differentiation, and establish geographical circuits in order to eliminate segregated circuits.

At the present time the Methodist Church is cooperating ecumenically in a study of the question of foreign investments in South Africa, and has publicly called for a National Convention which would include all population groups as well as for the release of political prisoners.

The South African church asked support for projects initiated in literacy training, the Cape Flats Mission Community projects, the Umtata lay training centre, and a number of multi-racial conference centres.

EPS

SWEDISH, ENGLISH CHURCHES FACE  
CONTINUING CLERGY SHORTAGE

London/Stockholm (EPS) - The Church of English could be facing a severe manpower shortage it was revealed in London at the same time as the Lutheran Church of Sweden announced it expected a shortage of clergy to continue.

In a special letter to all his clergy, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Donald Coggan, said that last year the number of men ordained was the lowest in 25 years. He noted at the same time an all-time low in the numbers wanting to be ordained. He warned the church will face a clergy shortage of "considerable magnitude" if these low numbers continue.

Commenting on Dr Coggan's letter, the Advisory Council for the Church's ministry blamed competition with industry, government, the professions and employers of every kind in the recruitment race as part of the reason for the shortage. Statistics show that out of 14,350 clergy in 1975, a total of 3,530 were expected to retire by 1980, with only 1,500 ordinations expected.

The Church of Sweden has been short of ministers for a number of years. The Rev. George Perry, recruitment secretary, said some 233 ministers were ordained in 1975 and 177 last year. Two hundred new ministers a year is considered a minimum figure needed. One reason given by Mr Perry for the higher number ordained in 1975 was government backing of alternative educational plans for many jobless university graduates. A number chose the ministry as a career. Because the job situation now seems brighter for university graduates, fewer candidates are seeking ordination.

EPS

CATHOLIC NEWSMAGAZINE BECOMES  
ECUMENICAL VENTURE IN PACIFIC

Port Moresby (EPS) - A unique fortnightly newsmagazine in Melanesian Pidgin founded six years ago as a Catholic venture has become ecumenical this year when Lutheran, Anglican and Methodist church interests joined its editorial staff and board of directors. At the same time, the magazine "Wantok", Pidgin for "One Talk", became a weekly.

The magazine aims at telling the story behind the news heard on the radio, the founder and continuing editor Father Francis Mihalic, an American SVD missionary, said. "Wantok" is the largest publication in Melanesian Pidgin which is on the way to being recognized as the national language of Papua New Guinea. It is spoken by more than 600,000 of the 2,500,000 population, who speak no fewer than 700 different languages.

In the House of Assembly, 85 per cent of speeches and discussions are in Melanesian Pidgin. It is a trading language in which the grammar is basically Melanesian and the vocabulary mostly English in origin but written phonetically in accordance with local pronunciation.

"Wantok" appears in tabloid format of from 16-24 pages with the cover in two colours and the centre spread devoted to photographs. Its circulation of 8,000 reaches 60,000 readers. As this is election year in Papua New Guinea political parties are already making arrangements for advertizing space in "Wantok". All the 100 members of the House of Assembly are among its readers.

Reflecting the unique geographical market area served by the publication is the fact that the editorial offices are located in Port Moresby, where most news originates, while the printing is done in Wewak, 600 miles away.

EPS



EMORY UNIVERSITY HONOURS  
WCC PRESIDENT BONINO

Atlanta, Georgia (EPS) - Candler School of Theology of Emory University has awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, to Dr Miguez Bonino, a World Council of Churches president, "for his institutional leadership, scholarly contributions and ecumenical endeavours". Dr Bonino is Dean of Graduate Studies at the Institute for Higher Theological Learning in Buenos Aires and received a Masters of Arts degree in teaching at Emory University in 1953. Dr Boninio received his award on January 19.

EPS

SWEDISH CHURCHES TO LAUNCH STUDY  
ON USE OF NUCLEAR POWER

Stockholm (EPS) - Two study groups of the Church of Sweden will join forces in a research programme on the use of nuclear power and other questions concerning the future of mankind. The study will concentrate on the theological and ethical aspects of the use of nuclear power. Material gathered from other countries will permit a wider examination of the continuing spread of nuclear energy. Findings will be presented to the College of Bishops of the Church of Sweden for the drafting of a statement to the churches.

The use of atomic power for the production of electricity is a controversial question in Sweden. The Centre Party captured many votes in last year's elections on a ticket which favoured the total ban of nuclear power plants. Youth organizations and other groups have challenged the bishops and the Church to make a clear declaration on the use of nuclear power plants. Basic to the problem is the question of the storage of nuclear waste. Used atomic fuel must be removed from the power plants and opinion is divided about a safe way of keeping the waste which remains radio-active for hundreds or perhaps thousands of years. The radiation is very harmful to human beings in particular and to the environment in general.

EPS

LIFE OF BACH TO BE FILMED  
BY LUTHERAN FILM GROUP

New York (EPS) - The life and music of Johann Sebastian Bach, 17th century musical genius sometimes known as "the fifth evangelist", is to become the subject of a 90-minute television film planned this year by Lutheran Film Associates. The film is to be released in 1978.

Although Bach wrote many of his compositions as a Lutheran church musician, a traditional biography is not intended, said Robert E.A. Lee, executive secretary of Lutheran Film Associates. "We plan to let Bach's music sing for itself and reveal the man in the process," he added. The film would "celebrate the contemporary phenomenon of the amazing popularity of Bach's music as it is discovered by growing audiences in many nations. Bach's music lends itself ideally to jazz and rock adaptations and this will be included in the film."

Producer is Lothar Wolff, whose earlier work included the films "Martin Luther" and "Question 7". Cooperating in financing the venture will be Lutheran Brotherhood, an insurance company, and two of the three LFA member bodies, the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church in America. The third member, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is not participating.

EPS

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## CATHOLIC BISHOPS DEFEND RIGHTS OF OBJECTORS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg (EPS) - The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference today (February 10) came to the defence of individuals who may refuse to bear arms in the developing armed struggle on the borders of South Africa and within that country as conscientious objectors.

The Bishops said in a prepared statement that a grievous situation may arise for all who are concerned about the use of violence because "on the one side the conviction grows in a significant sector of the oppressed majority that only violence will bring liberation. On the other, the minority in power sees itself threatened by indiscriminate violence supported by international communism".

In these "agonizing circumstances", the bishops had decided to say something about conscientious objection. Quoting from the second Vatican Council that "laws should make humane provision for the case of conscientious objectors who refuse to bear arms", the statement explains there are two forms of conscientious objection; on the grounds of universal pacifism and on the grounds that a particular war is unjust.

The statement points out that in South Africa the Defence Force Act makes no provision for any conscientious objector (universal or selective) to do non-military selective service, provides for universal COs (those who belong to pacifist denominations) to do non-combatant military service, and makes no provision whatsoever for selective COs.

Consequently, in South Africa the selective objector and the universal objector refusing to do non-combatant military service are liable to a fine and/or imprisonment.

The Bishops' statement declares: "We defend the right of every individual to follow his own conscience, the right therefore to conscientious objection both on the grounds of universal pacifism and on the grounds that he seriously believes the war to be unjust. In this, as in every other matter, the individual is obliged to make a moral judgement in terms of the facts at his disposal after trying to ascertain these facts to the best of his ability. While we recognize that the conscientious objector will have to suffer the consequences of his own decision and the penalties imposed by the state, we uphold his right to do this and we urge the state to make provision for alternative forms of non-military national service as is done in other countries in the world.

EPS

## CAMARA CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE

Antwerp (EPS) - Dom Helder Camara, Roman Catholic Bishop of Olinda and Recife in northern Brazil, and outspoken critic of the exploitation of the poor of Latin America and the Third World, has strongly condemned the international arms trade.

Speaking here at a meeting focusing international Christian opinion on the runaway arms race, Bishop Camara declared that it had become "a means of destruction for the human race." In addition to the obvious dangers of the nuclear arms race between the super powers, particular danger existed in the rapidly growing arms trade by the advanced industrial nations to the poorer nations of the Third World.

Bishop Camara called upon Christians and others in the industrialized nations to "show solidarity with the oppressed of Latin America and the Third World", and to advance the cause of their liberation by supporting campaigns against the arms trade.

CWME CORE GROUP BEGINS PLANNING  
1980 WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE

Geneva (EPS) - Preparations for the world missionary conference in 1980, the present missionary situation and new perspectives in evangelism predominated discussions at the February 4-9 core group meeting of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME). The group is composed of leaders of missionary organizations, theologians and consultants from six continents whose task it is to plan directions for CWME work between now and the next decade.

The projected conference in 1980 is one of three world conference authorized by the Central Committee in the next three years to emphasize specific subjects. The 1978 meeting will be devoted to Faith and Order, 1979 to Church and Society.

Held 70 years after the first world missionary conference in Edinburgh which marked the dawn of the ecumenical movement, the 1980 event is to develop for the churches directions for their missionary task until the end of the century. Confronted by pluralism in various situations, the churches face many questions concerning the aim and function of their missionary involvement.

To prepare the conference, a consultative committee will be set up in which all contemporary theological and missionary trends will be represented. The Roman Catholic Church which has four missionary orders with consultant status associated with CWME, will participate in the preparatory process. Clear and concrete indications on the planning process are expected from the CWME meeting in February 1978 in Puerto Rico. It will at the same time evaluate a study on affirmation of mission and evangelism today.

The core group discussed the current situation in three areas: the proclamation of the Gospel in the world of science, meetings with other religions and evangelism in countries with a single official ideology.

EPS

ROMAN CATHOLIC-METHODIST COMMUNITY  
AGENCY ESTABLISHED IN ENGLAND

London (EPS) - A new ecumenical agency for church and community development work has been formed in England under joint Roman Catholic and Methodist sponsorship. The new agency is named AVEC, the French word for "with", and will have representatives of other churches as well on its governing board.

An official announcement said "AVEC is closely related to the major religious denominations but is not part of the church structure. This arrangement ensures its independence, objectivity and wide church links. It has been formed to provide on-the-job or in-service training or support for clergy and laity engaged in community development work at local level."

Dr George Lovell, a Methodist minister, and Miss Catherine Widdicombe, a Roman Catholic staff member of the Grail, will head AVEC's full-time training staff. Both have wide experience in self-help and self-development projects and will be "itinerant in their ministry" to the local church. They will hold training courses, seminars and consultations anywhere they are required, working with people involved in local programmes.

The governing body includes the Rev. Edward Rogers, a former president of the Methodist Conference; the Rev. Sebastian Charles, secretary of the Division of Community Affairs of the British Council of Churches; the Rev. Brian Green, director of Pastoral Studies at St. Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Theological College at Ushaw, and the Rev. David Wainwright, assistant secretary of the Church of England General Synod's Board for Social Responsibility.

EPS



WCC COLLECTS LIST OF MISSING,  
DETAINED PERSONS IN ARGENTINA

Geneva (EPS) - An initial list of detained and missing persons in Argentina, assembled by priests and pastors throughout the South American country has been received by the World Council of Churches. The information contains names and details of arrest, abduction or disappearance of 340 persons within the last 12 months only, according to WCC sources. In addition, a document ("One Gigantic Prison") received here from the Inter-Church Committee on Chile in Canada reports the findings of a team of three Canadian members of Parliament who made an exhaustive survey recently in Argentina. Their report states that "at least 1,000 persons have totally disappeared; others have been tortured and assassinated."

One of the latest names on the list of missing persons is that of Professor Mauricio Lopez, a member of the WCC's Commission on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies, who was taken from his home by eight hooded men in the early hours of January 1. While a letter was received from him by his family after three days, nothing has been heard from the well-known ecumenical figure since then despite many appeals from church leaders around the world to the President of Argentina and local authorities.

This substantial evidence reflects a growing degree of repression and deprivation of human rights in Argentina. Victims include refugees in Argentina from other equally repressive regimes in surrounding countries. Documentation of the terror is being compiled by many international organizations such as the International Commission of Jurists which in its latest study, published in December, surveys and compares the military regimes and their excesses against human rights in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

The jurists point out that these regimes claim "to protect the values of western civilization, but in practice violate(s) them almost without exception". The usual practice is for political suspects to be arrested by persons who do not identify themselves, are dressed in civilian clothes, heavily armed. It is not known by what authority the arrest was made, who is carrying it out, where the arrested person is taken, why and for how long. Torture, mostly ending in death, follows. In many cases, the bodies are disposed of so that they are not found.

EPS

US RELIGIOUS AGENCIES ASK COCA  
COLA TO END BOTTLER'S FRANCHISE

New York (EPS) - The Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and four Catholic organizations have joined in a stockholder resolution asking Coca Cola to terminate its franchise agreement with a bottler in Guatemala City. The resolution says the bottler "has engaged in unusual and repressive action against employees who freely exercise their right to choose labour union representation."

Employees of the bottling company get less than \$2.50 a day, one of the lowest industrial wages in the area. When workers sought to be represented by a union, the company paid "scabs" \$3 a day to replace them, the agencies pointed out.

The resolution was jointly filed by the Sisters of Providence, St Mary of the Wood, Indiana; the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement; the Franciscan Justice and Peace Centre, Washington, DC; the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus; and the UMC Board. Coca Cola's annual meeting will be held May 2 in Wilmington, Delaware.

EPS

THREATS TO SURVIVAL PROMPT  
SEARCH FOR NEW LIFE STYLE

Glax, France (EPS) - More churches are responding to the threats to survival posed by the earth's limited resources, population growth, ecological concerns and unequal social and economic systems by committing themselves to the search for a new life style, a World Council of Churches workshop was told here.

Second in a series that started in 1975, the meeting attracted 23 participants, who exchanged findings from seminars in Europe and North America. Held at the invitation of the Commission of the Churches on Participation in Development, the meeting agreed that the present predicament of mankind concerns Christians and non-Christians alike. The limited character of the earth's resources, the capacity of the ecological system to absorb pollution and nuclear waste, the impossibility of feeding an evergrowing population, and social and economic systems which resist a just distribution of available goods and prevent participation of people in the social and political processes governing their lives are all factors contributing to a growing conviction that something must be done before it is too late. Increasing materialism and alienation of the affluent people on earth was stressed.

Experiments presently undertaken range from changes in life style at the personal level, living more simply and more communally, to efforts at changing certain social and economic policies such as long-range energy planning policies, overcoming unequal consumption patterns, transfer of resources from rich to poor nations and others.

The workshop proposed to include in an ongoing study process people from the Third World, and encouraged theological reflection especially with the contribution that the Orthodox tradition can make. The need for a coordinating structure to enable more concerted action of New Life Style groups and movements was emphasized.

EPS

WCC DEPLORES KILLING OF  
MISSIONARIES IN ZIMBABWE

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches has (February 9) deplored the "senseless killing" of seven Roman Catholic missionaries in Zimbabwe last weekend and blamed "the atrocities perpetrated by all sides" in the conflict on "the regime's persistent refusal to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the Zimbabwe leaders".

In answer to press inquiries, a WCC spokesman said:

"We deeply deplore the senseless killing of seven Roman Catholic missionaries at the Musami mission station, 56 kilometres from Salisbury, and the burning of buildings at Myashanu mission near the Mozambique border.

"It is particularly regrettable that those who have loyally remained in solidarity with the Zimbabwe people and with their aspirations should become victims of such attacks.

"The atrocities perpetrated by all sides are clearly the result of the regime's persistent refusal to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the Zimbabwe leaders.

"The World Council of Churches has on several occasions warned that failure to negotiate peacefully would lead to an intensification of the conflict. The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches will again discuss the whole situation at its meeting next week."

EPS



PAPER ON CHURCH AUTHORITY SEEN  
EASING SPLIT OVER WOMEN'S ROLE

Los Angeles (EPS) - The recent statement on church authority by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) has moved "reunion" of the two churches "from the realm of possibility to the realm of probability" in the view of Father Herbert J. Ryan, a US Jesuit member of the commission. Acceptance of the statement will mean a "continuation of dialogue despite differences on concrete applications" and "now we can get into the nitty-gritty, the hard questions of morality and the application of our faith to life situations," he said.

"Primacy of the Pope" or other "sensationalized" aspects of the document are not the main issue. The real importance of the statement lies in the "substantial agreement" on how the Christian church "maintains its continuity with Christ and the Apostles", he declared.

On the basis of the document, if substantially accepted by Anglican and Roman Catholic leaders, "we can enter into a whole new stage of dialogue - on such questions as mission, evangelism, aiding the poor". He stressed that "without the document the ordination of women would be an...insuperable barrier to further dialogue and eventual reunion".

The Jesuit, who is a professor of religious studies at Loyola-Marymount University, Los Angeles, said that as a result of the statement Catholics can come to understand the seriousness with which Anglicans approach the question of authority in the Church and recognize how, after 63 years of study on the role of women, the Anglican Church was able to establish a basis for the ordination of women.

Father Ryan said the document, which complements earlier statements on the Eucharist (1971) and Minister and Ordination (1973), shows that the Anglican and Roman Catholic communions have essentially the "same decision-making process". While the two churches may disagree on particular decisions, each can understand how the other makes those decisions, he added.

EPS

CUBAN PRESBYTERIANS RESTRUCTURE  
CHURCH, DRAFT NEW CONFESSION

Matanzas, Cuba (EPS) - Cuban Presbyterians took the tenth anniversary of their church to vote for a drastic reorganization of church structures, providing for a decentralization of authority and an upgrading of the status of the laity, and adopted a new confession of faith. The occasion was the 11th General Assembly of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba, held at the Matanzas Theological Seminary, January 27-31, 1977.

The principles underlying the new constitution are in the "best Reformed tradition", according to Dr Adolfo Ham, a Matanzas faculty member. They include: emphasis on the role of the laity and on the diaconal (service) character of all church offices, the incorporation of all members in the whole ministry of the church and therefore "more power from the people" generally, and more autonomy to local and provincial church councils. The latter is not only seen as an attempt to stress the "priesthood of all believers", but also to gear church structures to decentralizing trends contained in Cuba's national constitution of 1975.

The new confession of faith is the result of two years' work by a four-man committee. Said Dr Ham, who was a member of the committee: "After ten years of life we want to share with other churches in Cuba and the world our insights and experiences. What we have here does not pretend to be a complete statement of all the articles of faith since we have other symbols, but only those specific points to which we have to refer and which come out of the experience of a church living in our Cuban socialist society and revolution."

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL PUBLICATION  
CLOSED BY SMITH REGIME

Salisbury (EPS) - A presidential decree in January suspended the publication of "Umbowo", the well known monthly of the Christian Council of Rhodesia, bringing to an end the 11-year confrontation between the paper and the Ian Smith regime.

"Umbowo" (Shona word for Witness) was founded in 1918 by the Rev. Horace Eddy Greely, an American Methodist missionary. It became an important medium of instruction on new farming methods and rural development projects and was a vital communication link among church members as well as with the outside world. A survey of back numbers showed a conspicuous silence of the paper on issues such as the granting of "responsible rule" to the white settlers in Rhodesia in 1923. Neither did the paper speak out against successive repressive laws.

In 1965 "Umbowo" underwent a change in its editorial policy with the appointment of the first trained black journalist, Ezekiel Makunike, as editor. The paper's circulation increased and its role as the voice of the black majority became important. The Smith regime began to see in it a growing militant opposition to the institutionalized racism and repression in the country.

The government first banned "Umbowo" from being sold in schools after the paper had attacked salary differences between black and white teachers. "Umbowo" next clashed with the regime over the forced eviction of the Tangwena people living in Inyanga, north of Umtali, to make way for European settlers. From then the government's vexation with the paper grew. Mr Makunike's successor, Everson Chikwanha, received a suspended gaol term for criticizing politically motivated court sentences.

In June 1975, "Umbowo" became an ecumenical newspaper and was taken over by the Christian Council of Rhodesia with Stanford Mukasa, a graduate of the African Literature Centre, as editor. Three months later, editor Mukasa was convicted of writing a "subversive article" and received a sentence of one year at hard labour suspended for three years. The publication was banned temporarily in August 1976 when the new editor, Richard Chikosi, adopted an even more militant editorial policy. Special branch detectives invaded "Umbowo's" offices at the end of December and confiscated all copies of the publication. The presidential decree, declaring "Umbowo" a prohibited publication, followed in January.

EPS

RACE LAWS STRENGTHENED  
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide (EPS) - Laws prohibiting racial discrimination in South Australia have been strengthened by the Racial Discrimination Act which passed both houses of State Parliament recently.

The Act repeals a former act in force since 1966, which required the prosecution to establish that race was the sole basis of discrimination. The definition of "race" has been expanded in the new Act to include the racial ancestry and racial characteristics of a person, or of a person with whom he or she lived or associated. It prohibits discrimination in employment, access to licensed premises, shops, places of public entertainment and place of public access.

Similar legislation was passed a few months ago by the New South Wales Government. In both states the Australian Labour Party is in government.

EPS



CATHOLIC PRIEST NAMED ECUMENICAL  
RELIEF COORDINATOR IN ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa (EPS) - Brother Augustine O'Keefe, CSSp, has been appointed coordinator of the ecumenical Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA) in Ethiopia. He succeeds two other Irishmen, Brian Pearce and W. Oliver.

The association was founded in 1973 through the efforts of the Lutheran Church and the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat. Aim of the association is to coordinate the work of the churches during the drought catastrophe, and to unite the efforts of the churches and voluntary agencies in meeting the needs of the people. Its need continues and it has grown to a membership of 18 church groups and voluntary agencies.

Brother Augustine is from County Tipperary, Ireland, studied community development and the cooperative movement in Canada. During the past few years he has directed community development projects and relief programmes in Ethiopia on behalf of the Catholic Church.

EPS

NEW COMMITTEE FORMED TO  
OVERSEE RELIEF IN LEBANON

Geneva (EPS) - A committee of Lebanese church leaders has been appointed by the Middle East Council of Churches to oversee relief and reconstruction work throughout the area replacing an ad hoc committee which has been dissolved, the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service reported here. Mr Iskander Mekarbel, a Lebanese economist with experience in international service programmes, has begun work as the full-time director for the committee.

The new committee will assume responsibilities for future reconstruction work and pick up the duties of the now-dissolved ad hoc committee. Its members are Metropolitan Aphram Boulos, Syrian Orthodox Church; Mr Arzominian, Armenian Orthodox layman; Metropolitan Khodr, Greek Orthodox Church; Fr Mansour, Greek Orthodox Church, the Rev. Salim Sahyouni, Evangelical pastor; and Dr Manougian, Armenian Evangelical layman, all of Beirut.

CICARWS has appealed for \$330,000 as interim four-month (February through May) funding for the new Lebanon Committee's operations which will concentrate on phasing out relief work and phasing in reconstruction. A broader long-range and comprehensive programme for the country is to be planned later.

The Middle East Council of Churches reiterated the committee's mandate which is to enable the churches in Lebanon to cope with their needs resulting from the civil war, including assistance to victims regardless of their religious or ideological affiliation.

EPS

BISHOP OF OSLO RETIRES

Oslo (EPS) - The Bishop of Oslo, Dr Kaare Støylen, has announced his retirement to take effect on September 1 this year. The 68-year-old Lutheran Bishop is chairman of the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations and of the national board of the Norwegian Bible Society. The process of nominating a successor is expected to begin in April.

EPS

GERMAN CHURCH COUNCIL STATES  
POSITION REGARDING CABLE TV

Hannover (EPS) - The Council of the Evangelical Churches in Germany (EKD) has reiterated its interest in the projected introduction of cable TV. In a public statement, the Council warns that cable TV should not be promoted on the basis of the present system's shortcomings, the advantages of which "far outweigh its disadvantages". The statement acknowledges nevertheless that partisan politics influence programmes and that in some areas growing commercialization threatens the independence of the public media.

The Council emphasizes that the task of pilot programmes should be to research the need for local news and information. Programmes to be offered should provide for stronger local participation. The Council is not averse to private ownership of cable TV but insists that public interest groups must be represented in the decision-making process.

The church should be involved in the planning phase of experimental programmes, develop ideas for participation, and be represented in controlling organs of cable TV. The statement stressed the importance of evaluating pilot programmes and urged that, should results indicate, the idea of local cable TV be given up.

EPS

"CLIMATE" IN NORWAY NOW IN  
FAVOUR OF ECUMENICAL WORK

Oslo (EPS) - A "noticeable change in climate" favouring ecumenical work is noted in the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations annual report.

"We have met a greater understanding for the necessity of vital theological, church-related and socio-ethical problems being the subjects of international cooperation," the report states. It interprets "signals from both the World Council of Churches Fifth Assembly in Nairobi in 1975 and from the new Central Committee" as a "fog lift from the Uppsala meeting", and welcomes ecumenical debate about the meaning of mission.

The report commends the Executive Committee of the Lutheran World Federation for having "in a most clear and strong manner expressed the high priority of mission, and the wish for a closer cooperation between all those involved in mission work in the member churches".

Criticism of a recent report by an official committee on the future ecumenical engagement of the Church of Norway is regarded as a minority view. The committee had recommended that the Norwegian Church should continue its membership in both the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

The Council on Foreign Relations further observes that ecumenical work "is gaining a still stronger position as a natural and integrated part in the daily life of the Norwegian Church".

EPS



PENTECOST 1977

Message from the Presidents of the  
World Council of Churches

IMAGINATION IN THE SERVICE OF UNITY

'All the believers were of one heart and mind'! That is how the Acts of the Apostles (4:32) describes the first Christian community. How did such diverse men and women from such different backgrounds come to be so united? The answer given is that this was the Holy Spirit's doing.

Today the same Holy Spirit longs to gather the divided churches into a single People of God. Let us, therefore, use this feast of Pentecost to give the Holy Spirit room to work in us and among us, in our hearts and minds. How absurd our divisions are! The only 'reason' we are no longer shocked by the contradiction between these divisions and the Gospel of reconciliation is that we have allowed ourselves to become accustomed to them. But so long as we continue to be divided we deny that Christ really can gather into unity the scattered children of God.

Many men and women have given their lives so that the churches might be united in the Holy Spirit. We have reason to thank God for the better understanding between the churches today. Yet after many years of fervent prayer and patient work our divisions remain. It is almost as if the churches were fearful of the goals for which they strive.

There is no turning back! We must travel to the very end of the road on which we have embarked. None of us is seeking a monotonous and drab uniformity. What we long for is fellowship in the Spirit and in the truth. Today more than ever - when the growing uncertainty about the future can so easily tempt us to withdraw into our separate shells and to leave each other to fend for ourselves - we need a fellowship

which demonstrates that our solidarity crosses all human obstacles and frontiers.

Every congregation, every Christian, can play an important part. According to 1st Peter (2:4-5) we are all called to be living stones of the spiritual house - the Una Sancta - the one Church of Christ. Working for unity is like constructing a building, therefore, a building made up of many stones. How can we play our parts? There are endless possibilities.

Why not decide today to take part in a service of worship at a neighbouring church and in this way deepen mutual understanding? Why not decide today to invite to your home someone who is a member of another church, and a stranger to you? Why not show your public support for someone who is in trouble for his or her faith? Why not introduce concrete petitions into your prayers on behalf of churches particularly in need of God's help: churches fighting for just treatment of the oppressed; churches whose freedom to witness to their faith is threatened; churches which have lost their first love and are in desperate need of renewal by the Holy Spirit?

The list of possibilities is indeed endless. Let us then ask the Holy Spirit today for the imagination and the inventiveness to carry us forward along the way towards unity in the Spirit.

The Presidents of the World Council of Churches:

Hon. President: Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft,  
Geneva, Switzerland

Mrs Justice A.R. Jiagge, Accra, Ghana  
Prof. José Miguez-Bonino, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Metropolitan Nikodim, Moscow, USSR  
Dr T.B. Simatupang, Jakarta-Pusat, Indonesia  
Archbishop Olof Sundby, Uppsala, Sweden  
Dr Cynthia Wedel, Alexandria, Va., USA



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UGANDA KILLINGS SHOCK WORLD,  
MAR WCC POLICY MEETING

Geneva (EPS) - News of the killings in Uganda interrupted proceedings at the first 1977 meeting of the World Council of Churches executive committee. Distressed committee members, after offering a prayer of intercession for the slain Anglican primate and the two government ministers who accompanied him in death, denounced human rights violations in Uganda in one of the strongest statements against a tyrannical regime adopted by a WCC policy-making body.

The WCC statement asked for an international investigation of the killings, requested the United Nations Human Rights Commission to probe "systematic and gross" human rights violations in Uganda and appealed to African nations, especially those of independent Africa, to take actions to prevent further loss of life in Uganda. "This situation of brutal oppression does grave injustice not only to the people of Uganda, but to all the people of Africa in this crucial moment in the history of that continent," the statement declared.

Archbishop Janani Luwum was head of the Anglican Church of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire, and had been a member of the WCC's Central Committee from 1968 to 1975. The two government ministers killed with him while the three were under arrest for alleged involvement in an unproven plot against President Idi Amin were Lt Col. Erinayo Oryema, land minister, and Oboth Ofumbi, interior minister. Both had been strong supporters of Idi Amin in the coup which brought him to power six years ago.

The tragic affair in Uganda underlined the focus on Africa of other public affairs resolutions, passed unanimously by the executive committee in the five day business session (February 14-18). With regard to torture and deaths of political detainees in South Africa, the committee expressed its deep sympathy to the families of those who died in police custody, condemned the torture and killing of detainees, declared support for the churches in South Africa which have strongly criticized torture in prisons and urged the United Nations Human Rights Commission to launch a thorough investigation into this matter.

A companion resolution authorized the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service to appeal for special funds to help meet urgent problems caused by the recent influx of refugees, especially young people, from Southern Africa into Botswana and other neighbouring countries. The help needed is for adequate housing and education. Protection from further harassment from the South African and Rhodesian authorities must also be given.

#### Appeal for Namibians

Directing attention to Namibia, the executive committee asked that the lives of two Namibians under sentence of death be saved. Their case is to come before the Appeals Court in Bloemfontein. A second statement called attention to the black churches' belief that the Turnhalle Conference in Swakopmund, called by the South African Government to develop a constitution, does not represent the cause of the Namibian people; the conference therefore should not be supported.

The two Namibians were alleged to have been involved in the slaying of Ovamboland Chief Minister Elifas. A Swakopmund court sentenced them to death and two women to long prison terms after a three-month trial which featured highly irregular tactics including intimidation of witnesses and the rifling of offices containing defence documentation.

The executive committee went on record in opposition to the Turnhalle Conference and its ethnic composition "which is a characteristic of the South African system and mentality". It warned against the confusion spread by the South African

(more)



regime in a campaign to get the support of the people on the basis of fear, confusion and suspicion.

Turning to stalled negotiations to bring black majority rule to Zimbabwe by peaceful means, the executive committee called on the United Kingdom Government to renew immediately efforts for the resumption of the Geneva Conference, "as a forum for continued negotiations with all parties concerned on the basis of clear written proposals for transfer of power within the period agreed by the Geneva Conference". In this respect, the committee believed that the United States "can also play a crucial role in expediting a solution for the Rhodesia problem". The statement urged all nations to scrupulously observe trade sanctions against Rhodesia and reiterated an earlier WCC call to member churches to intensify support for the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle for self-determination and independence.

In related action, the executive committee voted \$85,000 from the Special Fund of the Programme to Combat Racism, earmarked for liberation movements in Zimbabwe, in equal grants to each of three organizations: Bishop Abel Muzorewa's African National Council for Zimbabwe, Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe's African People's Union, and Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union. As all PCR grants, the money is to be used for humanitarian causes; in the case of the ANC for the strengthening of medical, educational and legal assistance within Zimbabwe. ZAPU's share will serve similar purposes and also assist in meeting the needs of refugees from Zimbabwe in Zambia, while the grant to ZANU is to benefit refugees in Mozambique. The legal defence costs of prisoners and aid to their families are among the needs to be met by the grants.

The executive committee resolved that unless satisfactory assurances are given by the Algemene Bank Nederland of Amsterdam by May 1 that the bank will stop granting loans to the South African Government or its agencies "until legally enforced racism in South Africa has been abolished", the WCC account with the bank will be closed. This action is in line with established WCC policy.

#### WCC finances improve

The financial picture of the WCC is more favourable than it has been in a long time, executive committee members learned. Contributions from member churches have improved considerably. This enabled the committee to authorize some additional expenditures and fund-raising for such items as the joint study (Community of Women and Men in the Church) of Faith and Order and the Sub-Unit on Women for which \$150,000 are needed over a period of three years; costs relating to the consultation programme of the Dialogue with Living Faiths and Ideologies (\$88,000); the human rights study programme for which \$80,000 remain to be raised; and others especially in Units I and III.

The executive committee authorized the launching of a capital fund campaign for the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey with a goal of \$1,600,000. With reference to undesignated funds from central church treasuries for what was known as the general budget of the WCC a first projection of 1978 needs revealed that \$200,000 of the total \$2,500,000 in undesignated funds remain to be raised. Member churches were exhorted to do their utmost to fulfill this goal.

In other business on a crowded agenda, the executive committee authorized conversations with a number of individual World Confessional Families to discuss their mediating role, communication issues, the part they play in church union negotiations, and to bring out "the oneness in the ecumenical movement" which both the WCC and the WCFs serve in their distinct ways. The executive committee said information about such discussions should be fully shared with regional councils and their views should be ascertained on the issues raised. Aim of the talks is to bring about a new relationship between the WCC and the WCFs.

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On the initiative of the Conference of WCF secretaries, a Forum for Bilateral Conversations is being planned for which the Faith and Order Secretariat has been asked to carry administrative responsibility. The Forum is to fill a need for a platform which would facilitate regular exchanges of information and a sharing of experiences.

For a just, participatory and sustainable society

The executive committee reaffirmed the decision of the central committee that the focus of the sub-unit on Church and Society for the post-Nairobi period should be "The Contribution of Faith, Science and Technology to the Struggle for a Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society", and that this be the subject of a world conference prepared by the sub-unit in 1979.

In the process of defining the studies and programmes related to the concern for a "Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society", the executive committee said it desires to ensure that a) the total process of study and action will emerge from and issue in an integrated vision of society which can command the allegiance and evoke the commitment of Christians; b) the scientific-technological, social-economic, and political-participatory dimensions of the quest for such society should be given their due weight and be interrelated and integrated as complementary perspectives on a single reality; c) the theological, cultural and ideological discussion should be given due consideration throughout the programme and in each one of the three main foci.

Fitting into this emphasis will be a number of WCC programmes. The Energy for my Neighbour Programme by which savings from local energy conservation programmes in industrialized nations are to be channeled directly to situations most in need of energy to achieve a basic standard of living will need the services of an energy consultant versed in self-reliant and appropriate energy projects, the committee was told. Launching of the programme, which is to be lodged in Unit II on Justice and Service, on an experimental basis is being studied.

A report on a new study/action programme on militarism and disarmament brought before the committee said that militarism and the armaments race have reached such a critical stage that they have become threats to human survival. The report defined militarism as the tendency of the military apparatus to take control over more and more functions of national life until it exercises hegemonic control over the state, bringing about progressive militarisation of all sectors of life and becoming in the end self-sustaining. Consultations on this subject are being planned.

The newly initiated study/action programme on transnational corporations, the committee heard, is based on the concern of the churches for the poor and the oppressed and for justice in socio-economic relationships. The involvement of individual Christians in these corporations as workers, employers, investors, consumers, and that of the churches as shareholders and participants in the decision-making process is indicative of the range of the study programme. Transnational corporations are viewed by some as "engines of development, a bank of technology, suppliers of capital, generators of employment", and as "advanced global planners, capable of unifying the human race".

On the other hand they are also seen as epitomizing the development and concentration of capital, technology and power in the hands of a few. A first consultation to discuss the nature and function of transnationals will convene June 6-10 in Bossey.

EPS

(texts of resolutions on Uganda, South Africa, Rhodesia /Zimbabwe/, Namibia are carried as documentation in this issue.)



CHURCHES THROUGHOUT WORLD  
PROTEST UGANDA KILLINGS

Geneva (EPS) - Messages protesting the killings of Anglican Archbishop Janani Luwum and two cabinet ministers in Uganda continue to reach the World Council of Churches from church leaders in many parts of the world. Most question the "official" version given by the Uganda Government that the three men were killed in a car accident. The most damaging version of the tragedy is attributed by the Tanzanian Daily News to an "eyewitness" in Kampala who asserted he saw Archbishop Luwum being stripped and whipped by two soldiers in President Amin's Nagasero Lodge. Those present interrupted torturing the primate to listen to a BBC broadcast entitled "Focus on Africa". The Archbishop was then shot by Idi Amin himself and his body thrown into Lake Victoria together with the bodies of the two slain cabinet ministers.

Legislators in many countries, government officials, religious leaders and international organizations are demanding a full investigation of the deaths and circumstances leading to the tragic affair. The WCC, through its executive committee, urged action to prevent further loss of life in Uganda (see resolution on Uganda in appendix).

Canon Burgess Carr, general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) in Nairobi said that "Archbishop Luwum is only one more victim of the wave of atrocities in Uganda". He feared this "murder is part of a campaign of terror unleashed against Christians in Uganda". He also renewed the request that a delegation of the AACC (which groups 116 churches in 33 African countries) be allowed to visit Uganda, to investigate the death of Archbishop Luwum and the allegations of his involvement in a plot against President Amin. He asked churches throughout the world to encourage their respective governments to censure and isolate the government of Uganda for its flagrant abuse of human rights.

The National Christian Council of Kenya called the killing of the Anglican archbishop "yet another proof of the persecution of many innocent people which has been going on in Uganda since Amin came to power". Signed by the leaders of churches in Kenya, the NCCCK declaration said "we confess that we have often kept quiet when we should have identified ourselves with the suffering and persecuted people of the continent of Africa and Uganda in particular".

Archbishop Luwum was "a man who combined great courage and gentleness" said the Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan. He noted that Janani Luwum had from time to time felt it right to respond "critically to the government of Uganda's summary killing of great numbers of civilians in its defence of internal security". The head of the Anglican Church recalled that shortly before his death Janani Luwum had sent a letter together with 18 other bishops to President Amin in another attempt to halt indiscriminate killing in the nation.

The executive committee of the Lutheran World Federation in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury expressed solidarity with the Anglican Communion in the sympathy and prayers for the church in Uganda.

The British Council of Churches "urged the Head of State to see that a full investigation is made into the death of Archbishop Luwum, to restrain the security forces, and to establish a just society in Uganda - an objective shared by Christian and Muslim alike".

"This news (the death of Janani Luwum) coupled with reports of brutal repression in Uganda over the last six years leads us to believe that the rule of law has been abandoned" declared Claire Randall of the National Council of Churches in the United States. Joining the WCC in supporting the AACC's demand to be allowed to

send a delegation to Uganda, the general secretary of the NCC also appealed to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, asking it "to thoroughly investigate the reports of flagrant violations of human rights in Uganda".

Bishop Helmut Class, president of the Evangelical Church in Germany, said that Janani Luwum and the other Anglican bishops in Uganda had been tirelessly opposing the terror and arbitrary behaviour of the State authorities and that Janani Luwum's death could be the sign of a new wave of terror against members of the church in Uganda.

Urgent appeals were made to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), asking it to take action on the tragic events in Uganda. In a letter addressed to the heads of state of the member countries, Anglican Bishop Henry Okullu (Kenya) hoped that the OAU would meet immediately to find a way to help the population of Uganda which is "marooned among a bunch of lunatic soldiers". Severely criticizing the OAU for having retained Uganda as a member state in spite of six years of massacres Bishop Okullu asserted that "if the OAU has no answer to such a problem then it should be pronounced worthless". Addressing the world community he declared himself in favour of reexamining the whole concept of the absolute sovereignty of a state and the so-called non-interference of outsiders. "The whole of Africa and the world stands condemned before God if they continue to be onlookers on what is happening in Uganda," he concluded.

Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Americas said in a cable to Dr Philip Potter, WCC general secretary, "We pray that his (Archbishop Luwum's) sacrifice will inspire religious leaders, Christian and non-Christian, to continue to protest injustice and prejudice wherever and whenever they appear."

John Rees, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, was joined by the Anglican Bishop of Lesotho Desmond Tutu in calling the killing "a wanton act which violates the norm of human rights...and which has already been rightly described as inhuman". It can be seen "as nothing more than the barbaric refuge of a regime which is constantly threatened by its own insecurity". They joined the WCC in calling for an international investigation.

EPS

#### WSCF GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS

Colombo (EPS) - Bereket Yebio from Ethiopia, who is currently teaching at the University of Lund in Sweden, was elected chairman of the World Student Christian Federation at the organization's 27th General Assembly which convened at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall here January 30 to February 11.

The assembly elected Betsy Anderson, a student and member of the Student Christian Movement in Canada, as vice-chairperson; Dr Emidio Campi, a pastor of the Waldensian Church in Italy was elected general secretary; and M.E. Prabhakar, current secretary of the Student Christian Movement in India, became honorary treasurer.

Participants came from 72 countries and included representatives of member movements, federation staff, fraternal delegates from churches and international Christian organizations, guests and members of the Sri Lankan SCM. Discussions the first four days focussed on issues in Asia. The world political situation was explored under the theme "Higher Education and the Struggle for Liberation". The federation theme "Theological Reflection in the Struggle for Liberation" was elaborated by a theologian and a layperson. Among subjects discussed were the diversities of theological and political concerns within the federation and the plurality of approaches to the Christian witness in the struggle for liberation. Regional reports generated discussions of the unity that binds the movements and regions.

EPS



5-YEAR INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE  
PLANNED BY CATHOLICS, DISCIPLES

Indianapolis (EPS) - A five-year dialogue between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Roman Catholic Church, involving periodic bilateral conversations at the international level, will begin September 22-27 in Indianapolis. The two co-chairmen of the dialogue are Dr Paul A. Crow of Indianapolis, president of the Disciples Council on Christian Unity, and Bishop Francis R. Shea of the Evansville, Indiana, Catholic Diocese. Eight representatives of each church will participate in the conversations.

While this dialogue is "unique among international dialogues in having its primary base within one nation, the United States", it will "have the full support and involvement" of both churches "in their global perspectives and participation," said Bishop Shea. The Roman Catholic Church is currently involved in dialogues at the world level with the Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Reformed and Pentecostal traditions.

The Disciples were engaged in bilateral talks with Catholics between 1967 and 1973 and have also dialogues with the United Church of Christ and the 10-member Consultation on Church Union. Sponsors of the newly-initiated conversations are the Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the recently-formed International Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, the US Catholic Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity. Each church will choose five participants from the US and three from abroad.

EPS

METHODISTS PLAN DIALOGUES WITH  
CATHOLICS, LUTHERANS, ORTHODOX

Singapore (EPS) - Officers of the World Methodist Council met here February 14-16 and reviewed plans for the church-wide programme of active evangelism established as a priority concern for the period to 1981 at last year's quinquennial Council meeting in Dublin. This will be implemented in seven stages, starting with an invitation to Methodists everywhere on Sunday, September 4, to enter into a covenant with God to witness more urgently to Jesus Christ as the world's Saviour and Lord.

The officers gave preliminary consideration to criteria and procedures for the granting of the annual World Methodist Peace Award for the first time. It is hoped that the recipient - a Methodist lay person or minister from Ireland - can be announced at the Executive Committee meeting in Switzerland in September. The annual exchange of ministers between Britain and the USA, involving this year 70 persons, may be widened to cover exchanges between other countries, mainly in the Third World, and include lay persons.

The officers welcomed World Council of Churches proposals on more effective cooperation between the WCC and World Confessional Families. Reports were heard on inter-confessional dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutherans. After the meeting, Bishop William R. Cannon, chairman of the Ecumenical Relations Committee, and Dr Joe Hale, general secretary, visited the Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul, while Dr Kenneth G. Greet, chairman of the Executive Committee, and Frank Northam, Geneva secretary, called on Metropolitan Juvenaly of Tula and Belev, chairman of the External Church Relations Department of the Orthodox Church of Russia, for preliminary talks to plan initiating bilateral Methodist/Orthodox conversations.

EPS

WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON ALGEMENE BANK NEDERLAND NV

The Executive Committee

recalls the decision of the WCC Central Committee taken in August 1972 to deposit none of its funds in banks which maintain direct banking operations in South Africa;

recalls the decision of the WCC Executive Committee, taken in November 1975, to deposit none of its funds with the European American Banking Corporation and its six member banks in the light of their refusal to give assurances that they would stop granting loans to the South African Government and its agencies;

learns from the Dutch PCR support group "Prepaid Reply" that the Dutch bank with which the WCC has an account - the Algemene Bank Nederland - has admitted in the autumn of 1976 that it has been making loans to the South African Government and its agencies under conditions similar to those which obtained in the case of the EABC loans, despite its earlier denials that it had made any such loans;

commends the initiatives taken by "Prepaid Reply" to uncover and discourage Dutch banking operations which directly support apartheid;

expresses deep disappointment about the ABN having made loans to the South African Government and its agencies and about the fact that the ABN has given incorrect information about these loans;

decides that an assurance be solicited from the ABN that it will stop granting loans to the South African Government and its agencies until legally enforced racism in South Africa has been abolished;

authorizes the WCC Officers, if a satisfactory assurance is not forthcoming by May 1, 1977 to ensure that no WCC funds are deposited with the ABN after that date.

WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON TORTURE AND DEATHS OF POLITICAL DETAINEES IN SOUTH AFRICA

In yet another attempt to suppress the people, the South African authorities have resorted to torture of political detainees. During the period since the uprising at Soweto in June 1976 at least eighteen black people, most of them young, have died in police custody as a result of torture. The explanation by the South African authorities that these deaths have happened as a result of suicides, accidents and natural causes is not convincing. A large number of detainees are still held for political reasons, without trial or access to lawyers and families or organizations providing humanitarian assistance.

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches

expresses its deep sympathy to the families of those who have died in police custody in South Africa;

condemns the torture and killing of detainees in South African prisons and all holding of detainees without trial;

supports the churches in South Africa which have strongly criticized torture in prisons; and

appeals to the UN Human Rights Commission to make urgently a thorough investigation into this matter.



## WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON ZIMBABWE

International recognition of the legitimacy of the cause of the Zimbabwean people and the intensity of their struggle led to the holding of the Conference in Geneva, to discuss issues related to transfer of power. At the Conference there was considerable agreement among the nationalists, many of whom were having the opportunity to meet one another for the first time in several years. They were unanimous in demanding a specific date for independence and concerning the basic structure of the interim government. Unfortunately efforts were not pursued to strengthen this common approach and through that process broaden the unity among the Zimbabwean nationalists.

The period of the Geneva Conference was utilized by the Smith regime to shift again its position under the cover of the so-called Anglo-American proposals, to intensify attacks on nationalist camps and refugees in Mozambique, and to gain time for manoeuvre. Consequently, the delay in reaching a peaceful solution has led to increased suffering of innocent people on both sides of the conflict. All such suffering is deplored by those who have the true welfare of Zimbabwe at heart.

The current attempts by the white regime to deny the legitimate aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe and to perpetuate white control in a new form by a procedure described as "internal settlement" and to gain support in the West by claiming to defend the so-called "free world" have to be exposed.

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom to renew immediately efforts for the resumption of the Conference as a forum for continued negotiations with all parties concerned on the basis of clear written proposals for transfer of power within the period agreed by the Geneva Conference; in this respect the Committee believes that the USA can also play a crucial role in expediting a solution for the Rhodesia problem;

urges all nations of the world to ensure that trade sanctions against Rhodesia are scrupulously observed and strengthened,

and reiterates the call of the last Central Committee to the member churches "to intensify their efforts to mobilize public opinion in favour of the liberation of Zimbabwe and to extend to the people of Zimbabwe all the moral, political and humanitarian assistance necessary in their struggle for the achievement of the right to self-determination and independence".

## WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON YOUNG REFUGEES FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

Having been informed of the urgent problems caused by the recent influx of refugees, especially young people, from Southern Africa into Botswana, and other neighbouring countries where help is needed for their adequate housing, education and protection from further harassment from the South African and Rhodesian authorities, the Executive Committee commends the joint efforts being made by the WCC, the AACC and the Botswana Christian Council to assist the young refugees and authorizes CICARWS to appeal for special funds if this becomes necessary in helping to meet this contingency.

## WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON NAMIBIA

The Turnhalle Conference - It is known that the predominantly black churches in Namibia have rejected the Turnhalle Conference as a South African institution and have clearly said that the Conference does not represent the cause of the Namibian people who are seeking just changes and independence of their country.

It is known that the legal advisors to the Conference are being paid by the South African Government and that the validity of their appointments is being questioned. The composition of the Conference is determined on an ethnic basis, which is a characteristic of the South African system and mentality.

Currently a strong campaign is being launched by the Turnhalle Conference to get the support of the people, through local radio broadcasts, newspaper reports, and pamphlets. The Conference is trying to talk to the people to gain support for its plans. The campaign is also launched against the churches. Churchmen are being approached, especially, by the "legal advisors" to the Conference and find themselves under great pressure.

This has led to great confusion among many people in the churches, an example of the way the South African regime confuses, divides, and then rules the people. The situation is marked by fear, confusion, and suspicion.

Resolution - The executive committee heard with grave concern a report of the recent developments in Namibia and the processes now in motion relating to the Turnhalle Conference convened by the South African Government. The executive committee asked that this report be disseminated as quickly as possible among member churches and called on the churches to pray for the leaders and membership of the churches in Namibia in the great pressures they are under, and for the whole nation that a just solution and full liberation may be achieved and drew attention to the central committee resolution on Namibia.

## WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON UGANDA

"The archbishop has gone home to his Lord."

With these words Christians abroad were informed of the tragic death of our beloved brother in Christ, Archbishop Janani Luwum, head of the Anglican Church of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire, and former member of the World Council of Churches central committee. He was killed last night along with two government ministers, Arphaxed Oboth-Ofumbi and Eranayo Wilson Oryema, in the aftermath of a frenzied military rally.

The executive committee is deeply shocked and grieved at this news. This is one more in the series of brutal events which have characterized a six-year reign of terror in which thousands have been summarily killed.

Two days ago, in an effort to avert further tragic events, the Ugandan Anglican bishops wrote an open letter to the President saying:

"The gun whose muzzle has been pressed against the archbishop's stomach...is the gun which is being pointed at every Christian in the church. We have buried many who have died as a result of being shot and there are many more whose bodies have not been found...The gun which was meant to protect Uganda...(and) the Ugandan...is increasingly being used against the Ugandan."

It is clear that the situation in Uganda can only be changed by massive international actions in support of the courageous struggle of the churches and others in Uganda to stop what appears to be a new wave of massacres.

(more)



The executive committee therefore:

strongly condemns the inhuman behaviour of those responsible for these killings which took place within hours of President Amin's public promise that the accused would be brought to trial before sentencing,

urges an immediate international investigation into the circumstances leading to the deaths of Archbishop Luwum and the two ministers, and supports the appeal made earlier by the All Africa Conference of Churches for an investigation into the alleged involvement of the archbishop and other church leaders in the so-called plot against the president,

requests the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to undertake a thorough investigation into the systematic and gross violation of human rights in that country, and to take immediate steps to prevent the killing of persons who may now be in imminent danger,

appeals to the nations, especially those of independent Africa, to take actions to prevent further loss of life in Uganda. This situation of brutal oppression does grave injustice not only to the people of Uganda, but to all the people of Africa in this crucial moment in the history of that continent,

appeals to WCC member churches through appropriate actions in their countries to affirm their solidarity with the church in Uganda especially in this year of centennial celebrations of the coming of Christianity to their land,

expresses its profound sympathy to the families of the victims, and especially upholds in its prayers the family of Archbishop Luwum, the House of Bishops of his church, and all the faithful in Uganda. With them and with all the people of Uganda we reaffirm our solidarity as they pass through this valley of death. May God be with them, may His Spirit sustain them in the power of His Son, our risen Lord continue to give them courage in their struggle for life and justice for all.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT WCC  
GENERATES POOR RESPONSE

Geneva (EPS) - The so-called Club of Ten has launched a new advertising campaign in some newspapers in Britain, Germany and the Netherlands in order to discredit the World Council of Churches and, in particular, the Special Fund of the Programme to Combat Racism.

The Club of Ten is an anonymous organization believed to include persons having business interests and government connections in South Africa. The advertisements accuse the WCC of being responsible for the deaths of the seven Jesuit priests and nuns in Musami, Rhodesia, in February.

The advertisements suggest that readers who oppose the support of liberation movements should write to the WCC expressing these sentiments.

More than one week after the appearance of these advertisements the World Council has received 22 letters from Britain, the great majority of which ask for the details in the advertisement to be clarified.

From the more than 60 German writers the majority assume that the claims of the advertisement are genuine and offer a protest. A large minority, however, ask for WCC clarification of the advertisement's claims. Five letters came from the Netherlands.

Among the letters received were those expressing support for the programme and asking that it be continued.

The WCC is replying individually to all the writers describing the scope and content of the Programme to Combat Racism and emphasizing again the criteria for making grants from the Special Fund which have been used since its inception in 1970.

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13 PRIESTS ARRESTED IN S. KOREA AT  
RALLY MARKING REVOLT AGAINST JAPAN

Seoul (EPS) - South Korean police and security forces launched a crackdown on religious demonstrations here and in 12 other cities, detaining 13 Roman Catholic priests, the wife of a Protestant minister and a former professor of Christian ethics. The demonstrations marked the 58th anniversary on March 1 of a popular uprising against Japanese colonial rule and were seemingly interpreted by the government as protests against the authoritarian rule of President Park Chung Hee.

Last year on the anniversary, former presidential candidate Kim Dae Jung and 17 other opposition figures met in a Catholic cathedral to issue a call to President Park to step down and restore democratic government. Mr Kim and others who signed the petition have since been sentenced to prison.

Besides the 13 priests, police detained Lee Woo Jung, wife of Kim Dae Jung, who has taught Christian ethics at Seoul Women's College. She was arrested when she emerged from a Protestant prayer service. Also arrested was Mun Ik Hwan, whose husband, a Protestant minister was imprisoned for signing the anti-Park statement. Mrs Mun shouted "Long live democracy" at the end of a subdued prayer service. She and Mrs Lee were arrested outside the Korean Christian Building. Korean government force had virtually laid siege to the building to prevent members of the families of those imprisoned from attending the prayer meeting.

EPS

#### AID SHIPMENTS FOR RUMANIA AWAIT EVALUATION OF NEEDS

Geneva (EPS) - Agencies related to the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) were informed today (March 9) that the Rumanian Government has suspended all requests for emergency aid in the earthquake disaster of March 4 until remaining needs are evaluated. Since the disaster occurred, the government has not been able to develop estimates of emergency needs. Meanwhile aid shipments from many countries were arriving in Bucharest. The amount of assistance already sent has made immediate additional shipments unnecessary.

While CICARWS remained on the alert to coordinate requests for aid, Danish Church Aid in conjunction with the Danish Red Cross airlifted on March 8 to Bucharest electro-cardiograph equipment, fibrillators, respiratory equipment and incubators for babies, cardiac tonic, other medicines, operating tables, milk powder and tents at a value of \$55,500 on March 8.

Earlier, official sources in Rumania had listed as most urgent needs funds, medications, hospital equipment including vehicles, machine tools and spare parts with the admonition that the equipment should not be electro-powered.

EPS

#### ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY CALLS LAMBETH CONFERENCE FOR 1978

London (EPS) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Donald Coggan, has called the next Lambeth Conference for the summer of 1978. The Conference will bring together the 400 Anglican Bishops, representing some 65 million Anglicans from all over the world to Canterbury for a three-week session. The Lambeth Conference is convened every ten years on the personal initiative of the reigning Archbishop of Canterbury.

In a shorter but complementary session some 250 to 300 of the Bishops' wives will meet in session. This will be organized by Mrs Coggan.

Bishop John Howe, Secretary of the Conference, said that the bishops may well give a "serious opinion" on the ordination of women, and that the church's ecumenical relationships and training for all kinds of ministry could be the subject of special debates.

EPS

#### TRANSLATIONS OF BIBLE REACH WORLD TOTAL OF 1,603

New York (EPS) - Bible translations were published in 29 more languages in 1976, bringing to 1,603 the total of languages and dialects in which at least one book of the Bible has been published since the Gutenberg Bible was printed. The 29 newly added languages include five spoken in Nigeria and three native American languages spoken in the US, according to the American Bible Society's annual scripture language count.

The complete Bible is now available in 262 languages, the New Testament in 401, and portions of the Bible in 940. The Gospel of Mark was found to be the book most frequently appearing first in a language. The choice of the first book to be translated varies according to culture. Matthew is preferred in the Muslim world, Luke in the Latin, and John in India, according to the Bible Society's translation department.

EPS



ROMAN CATHOLIC INSTITUTE  
SETS UP COURSE IN ATHEISM

Rome (EPS) - The Roman Catholic Pontifical Urban University in Rome, founded in 1627 by Pope Urban VIII to train missionaries to evangelize the non-Christian world, has officially inaugurated its Institute for the Study of Atheism.

The course offered is a three-year one and may be taken by both ecclesiastical and missionary students as well as interested laity.

The reasons for setting up the Institute, according to the director Fr Battista Mondin, SX, "are essentially religious and human" the same as led the Church, 350 years ago, to found the Urban College.

Fr Mondin continued: "Our University arose from essentially evangelical reasons: its constant aim has been the spiritual and cultural training of young people who feel themselves called to announce the Good News in non-Christian countries, and the preparation for the priesthood of members of the Young Churches of Asia, Africa, America and Oceania.

"But a considerable number of non-Christians today are no longer followers of Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius or of primitive religions; they are atheists... Thus, while missionaries in the past preached to pagans, today they must often preach to atheists.

"Our purpose is not merely to defend the interests of the Church, but rather to defend the interests of mankind. Dostoyevsky said that if God does not exist, then anything is allowed. Atheism, in fact, legitimizes egoism, oppression, violence. It is thus not a form of humanism but of barbarism, not freedom but oppression, not truth but obscurantism."

In the main lecture at the inauguration Cardinal Franz Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna and President of the Holy See's Secretariat for Non-Believers, said that although Communism set out to create a classless society it has in fact divided the population into two classes in the countries where it is in power: those who profess atheism have access to all the social privileges, while those who profess a religious faith are discriminated against at every turn.

EPS

TEMPLETON RELIGIOUS PRIZE AWARDED  
TO LEADER OF FOCOLARE MOVEMENT

London (EPS) - The £50,000 Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion has been awarded to Chiara Lubich, the founder of the Focolare Movement in Italy. The award citation says that she has been helping people of many denominations to grow spiritually by emphasizing "Love one another as I have loved you". Her contribution to promoting unity among Christians is one of the outstanding achievements in inter-church and inter-faith relations today.

The Focolare Movement has enjoyed an extraordinary impact on youth all over the world. Almost every year congresses in different countries have attracted an average of 50,000 young people.

Chiara Lubich has been instrumental in founding a hospital, schools and factories in the Cameroons, and worked among the very poor in the slums of Manila and Recife. Her spiritual life has inspired innumerable ecumenical encounters, brought new life to parishes, created new attitudes towards society and work, and helped many people to follow a call to dedicate their lives totally to God and mankind, the citation declared.

EPS

FIRST CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM MEETING  
HELD WITH PRESIDENT SADAT

Cairo (EPS) - The long traditions of inter-religious tolerance in Egypt were emphasized in a two-hour meeting between President Anwar el-Sadat and representatives of Egypt's Muslim and Christian leaders.

The meeting was attended by the full synod of the Coptic Orthodox Church, headed by Pope Shenouda III, and the higher Islamic Council, headed by the director of al-Azhar, Sheikh Abdul Halim Mahmoud. Considerable significance was attached by the press and public to this first historic encounter, which brought the two faiths together with the head of state.

President Sadat asked the two religious communities to prepare curricula and specialized teachers for religious education in order to respond to the "challenge of the modern world".

The director of al-Azhar spoke of the koran's reverence for Jesus and Mary, and urged that science and faith should be shown to be compatible. Pope Shenouda III suggested that Christians and Muslims collaborate in writing on such themes as monotheism, faith in God and good citizenship. He also proposed the establishment of a joint commission of Muslims and Christians. These proposals were warmly welcomed by President Sadat.

The wide publicity surrounding the meeting brought the comment from a Muslim factory worker that he was delighted and astonished to realize that Christians believe in one God.

EPS

BOSSEY COMPLETES 25TH WINTER  
SEMESTER ON HOPEFUL NOTE

Céligny (EPS) - Some 48 students from 24 countries completed the 25th winter semester of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey in late February. They heard Professor John Mbiti, director of the Institute sound a hopeful note. He said prospects of Bossey's future had improved when the WCC Executive Committee authorized the creation of a special fund for Bossey and approved a projected administrative restructuring designed to bring about balanced management.

Dr Philip A. Potter, WCC general secretary, in the closing ceremony expanded on the cosmic, universal and personal dimensions of Christ in his address "who is all the more ours as we realize that he is not only ours". He underlined particularly the risks of confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. "Some of you will be challenged in your countries to pay the price of the Lordship of Christ," he said. In this context, Dr Potter paid tribute to the stand taken by Archbishop Janani Luwum of Uganda in the defence of justice and dignity of human life. "He had the quiet conviction that the body might be destroyed but not the soul," he declared.

Professor Martin-Achard of the Faculty of Protestant Theology of Geneva presented the students with their certificates and congratulated in particular two for their dissertations of more than 100 pages.

A special service, prepared and conducted by students, highlighted the ceremony with emphasis on "the ecumenical spider's web" which brought together more and more Christians from six continents for study and reflection.

EPS



MAURY TO HEAD FRENCH  
PROTESTANT FEDERATION

Paris (EPS) - The Rev. Jacques Maury, president of the National Council of the French Reformed Church, was on February 26 elected president of the French Protestant Federation replacing Jean Courvoisier. He will take up his duties on June 1.

Mr Maury is well known not only in France for his missionary concern. He is a member of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches. From 1946 to 1958 he was a pastor in Lezay before becoming general secretary of the French Student Christian Movement. He returned to parish work from 1962-68 then served three terms as president of the National Council of the French Reformed Church. In his new position he will head a federation of nine churches, representing 640,000 French Protestants out of an estimated total of nearly one million.

EPS

CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS, JEWS MEET,  
ADVANCE CAUSE OF DIALOGUE

Geneva (EPS) - A group of 35 Christian, Muslim and Jewish students have advanced the cause of interreligious study and understanding when they met for three days at Bendorf, near Koblenz, West Germany, to discuss two leading thinkers of each faith. The personalities studied were Maimonides and Baeck, Thomas von Aquin and Karl Barth, Al Ghazzali and Abduh.

Similar discussions are increasingly held in various places round the world, small groups meet in order to get to know each other, to overcome their prejudices, and to plan cooperation on various levels. The WCC has for some years been encouraging such dialogue in its section on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies.

Protestant and Catholic students and young theologians from various West European countries, Jews from the Leo Baeck College in Britain and Muslims from Europe and Middle Eastern countries studying or working in England participated in the Bendorf event.

Highlights were joint worship services, meditation and prayer periods. They discussed in groups, how the three faiths can meet, how they are taught, and how a traditional faith can be lived in a modern age.

A larger dialogue of the three faiths is planned to take place in Vienna (Austria) from October 16-18, 1977, on the topic "Three faiths - One Society".

EPS

HOLY SPIRIT BASIS FOR  
ECUMENICAL AGREEMENTS

Geneva (EPS) - A new basis for ecumenical agreements has been suggested by American Episcopal Bishop Jonathan G. Sherman. He suggests that acknowledging the Holy Spirit as the common source for all ecclesiastical authority could be this basis. "The Holy Spirit is the authority of the Church, and it has taken the ecumenical movement some time to recognize this."

In ecumenical discussions, Bishop Sherman added "there has been from time to time a concentration upon one of the instruments of authority rather than upon the Holy Spirit itself".

EPS

NICARAGUAN REIGN OF TERROR  
CHARGES BY CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Managua (EPS) - A pastoral signed by seven Roman Catholic bishops, including Archbishop Miguel Obando Bravo of Managua, has charged that a "state of terror" exists in many areas of Nicaragua with torture, rape and executions without trial becoming commonplace. The government was accused of departing from "the laws of the nation and every wholesome principle of public order".

Since representations to President Anastasio Somoza Debayle, whose family has ruled the country for 40 years, have brought few changes in the situation, the bishops said they felt constrained to issue a pastoral letter. While government censorship prevented publication of the message in the press, it was read from the pulpits of churches throughout the country in late February.

A New York Times report said documents prepared by church sources list hundreds of farm peasants who have been killed or who disappeared over the last two years in the provinces of Matagalpa and Zelaya. The report said church sources claim that government troops have carried out two mass executions involving more than 85 persons, including 29 children since December.

A spokesman for President Somoza said that many of the Church's charges are false and others exaggerated. He said that most of those missing simply left the region to avoid involvement in clashes between government forces and guerrillas. But priests in these two provinces have complained that a reign of terror has been carried out against innocent campesinos since 1974 when government forces became active in the mountains.

The bishops' message said campesinos have been forced to flee from their villages and charged that interrogation often includes "inhuman humiliation methods - from torture and rape to execution without civil or military trial". There is also a growing number of prisoners held without charge. They charged abuses of religious freedom and said that the military leaders in Las Segovias province require them to have a permit to hold a Catholic religious service. In the mountains of Zelaya and Matagalpa, troops have occupied Catholic chapels and used them as barracks. Catechists and village elders have been tortured by soldiers and jailed.

EPS

PHOTO OIKOUMENE CATALOGUE

This catalogue presents most of the photos published in the EPS Mensuel and shows the type of pictures available from our office. If you wish prints of these, they can be ordered from the address below, at the price of Sfr 20,- per enlargement. Don't forget to give us the photo reference.

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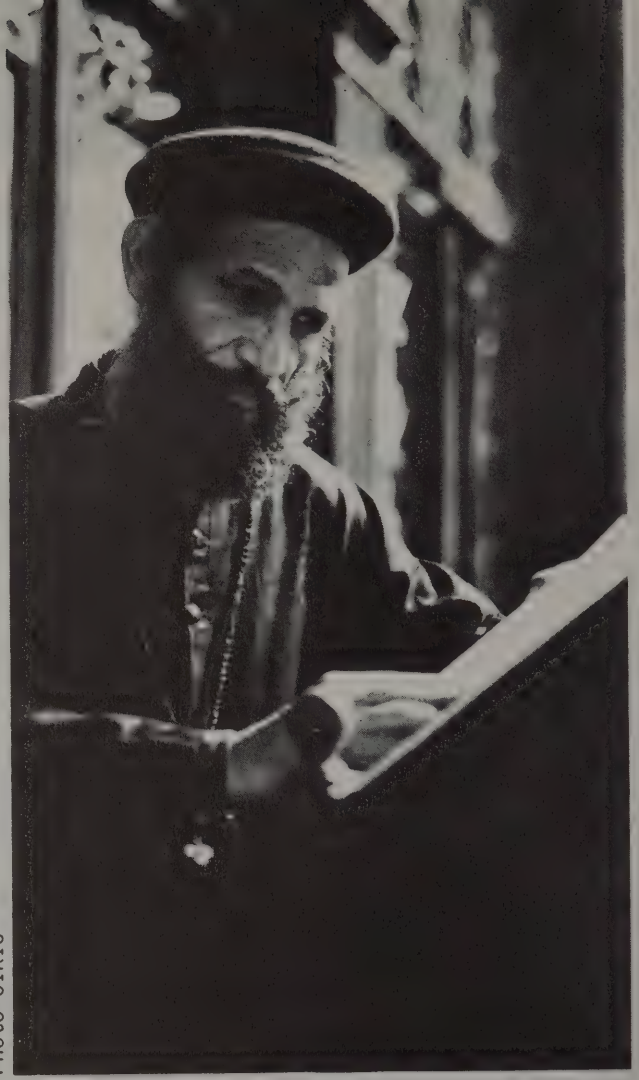
Photo Press

1927



1928

Photo CIRIC



1929



1930

1931



1932







1935



1936



1937

### THE CHURCHES' LIFE AND WITNESS: FACETS OF ORTHODOXY

(1935) Almost all the Orthodox Churches were represented at the first Pan-Orthodox Preconciliar Conference held at Chambésy near Geneva last November. The representatives discussed preparations for the Grand Orthodox Council, the first for 12 centuries, which observers say will take place soon.

(1933) Once the preliminary steps are concluded the privilege of convoking the Council falls to the Ecumenical Patriarch, Dimitrius I, as primus inter pares among the patriarchs.

It will be remembered that besides the Orthodox churches of the Byzantine rite there are four Eastern (non-Chalcedonian) churches: the Armenian Church, the Coptic Church of Egypt, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Syrian Orthodox Church which together have between 130 and 150 million members.

(1937) Most Orthodox churches have belonged to the World Council of Churches since 1961 and have also intensified their contacts with Rome, especially since the meeting between Paul VI and the late Patriarch Athanagorus in 1967.

The celebration of the Holy Liturgy is the supreme (and sometimes the only possible) way of expressing their witness and their teaching of the Gospel.

(1928) Metropolitan Juvenaly conducts worship.

(1932) The Monastery of St Catherine on Mount Sinai. Along with Mount Athos (Greece) and Zagorsk (USSR) this is one of the main centres of Orthodox monastic tradition.

(1930) A Romanian Orthodox nun talks to a village woman.

The Orthodox Church sets great importance on the teaching of the Fathers of the Church and on tradition.

(1934) The Syrian Orthodox Bishop of Malabar (India) deciphers an ancient parchment.

(1929) A student priest of the Coptic Church in Egypt studies the scriptures.

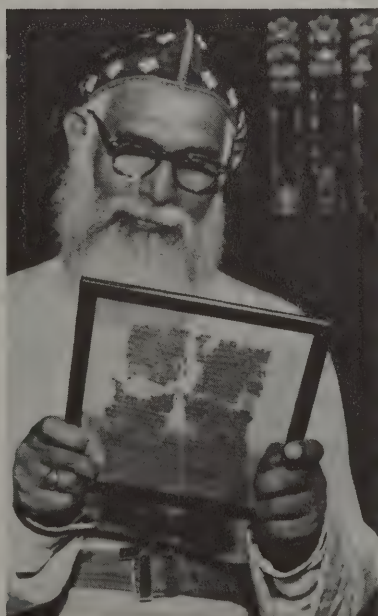
Nowadays there are many Orthodox Christians living in "diaspora" (scattered communities) in Western Europe, the Americas and Australia. Most of them are emigrants or descended from emigrants. They have formed communities which are served by their own clergy and visited by the spiritual head of their mother churches.

(1927) Patriarch German of the Serbian Orthodox Church (Yugoslavia) is welcomed by the community of Yugoslavian migrant workers in Switzerland, February 1977.

(1931) Consecration of Archbishop Torkom Manougian (left) who has charge of the Armenian apostolic communities in the United States.

(1936) A Greek priest at a youth work camp: one of the many ways in which the Orthodox Church participates in social work.

Photos: WCC unless otherwise indicated.



1934



1933





1923



1924



1925

### REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The stream of refugees in southern Africa is increasing steadily. Meeting from February 14-18, 1977 in Geneva the Executive Committee of the WCC adopted a resolution expressing support for the joint efforts of the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Christian Council of Botswana to help young refugees.

What they need most of all is suitable accommodation, educational opportunities and protection against further harassment by the Rhodesian and South African authorities.

The latter are the two countries from which the stream of refugees arriving in Botswana and neighbouring countries mainly come. The WCC Commission on Inter-Church Aid has been authorized to launch appeal for financial aid if necessary.

One example among many: the pupils of Manama high school. On January 30, 1977, several hundred pupils from the Lutheran high school at Manama in Rhodesia crossed the border to seek refuge in Botswana. They refuse to return home so long as the black population does not enjoy the same rights as the whites and are persecuted by the regime. Most of these young people are now in Zambia since the camp at Francistown which first received them does not have adequate facilities.

(1923) Amid great publicity the Rhodesian authorities dispatched eight buses and some of the young people's parents to Botswana to bring them back. Most of the seats on the return journey stayed empty; only about fifty of the 384 young people crossed back into Rhodesia.

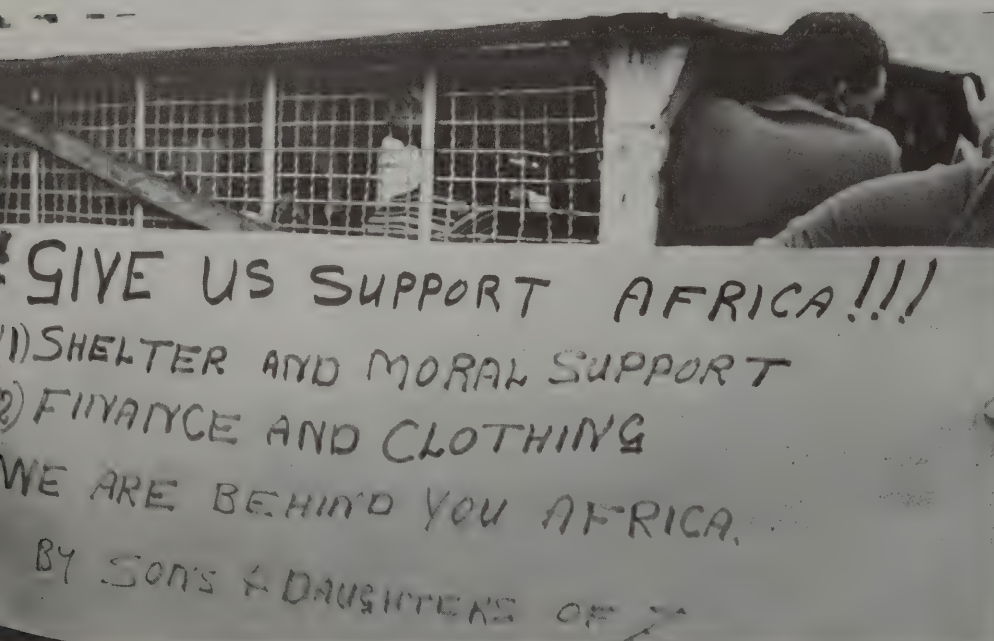
(1924) There were many tearful scenes of farewell at the refugee camp in Francistown.

(1925) More than one father found all his arguments useless - from gentle persuasion to threats of casting a spell.

(1926) The message from these young people was clear and unequivocal:  
 "GIVE US SUPPORT, AFRICA  
 1) shelter and moral support  
 2) finance and clothing  
 We are behind you Africa  
 (signed) the sons and daughters of Zimbabwe."

Photos: WCC/Botswana Information Services

1926





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24th March 1977

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SACC CONDEMNS PROPOSED  
NEW PRESS LAW

Johannesburg (EPS) - "The Government is taking the same line as that of Hitler - that the public must not be exposed to the truth in a time of growing military emergency" said a statement from the executive committee of the South African Council of Churches in reacting against the proposed new press law introduced in Parliament on 11 March.

The new law would empower a government appointed press council to jail journalists and close newspapers if they offend a government press code.

The SACC statement draws attention to the difficulties they have experienced recently. "As representatives of churches in southern Africa which have found their freedom to operate during the past few months to be severely restricted by the actions of government agencies, we can easily understand the concern of the press in South Africa about the proposed legislation aimed at restricting press freedom.

"We state unequivocally that a denial of press freedom such as that envisaged by the newspaper bill and the proposed government press code would result in further serious inroads in the whole issue of fundamental human rights.

"Freedom and responsibility are inconsistent with ignorance. Despite the restraints already imposed on it, the press has been courageous in enabling South Africans to know what has been happening and what the black majority, which is otherwise deprived of means of expression, feels and aspires to.

"The press has been a bulwark against the growing tyranny of this government. In restraining freedom of communication as it intends to do, the government would be interfering directly with an elementary gift which God has given to man."

Stating four ways that this direct interference would be seen, the committee draws attention to the inevitability of inroads into the Press meaning inroads into the freedom of religion. Particularly, says the statement, "in the light of the fact that the churches have come to rely heavily on the media, secular as well as religious, for the spread of their message and the proclamation of the gospel. This legislation will definitely inhibit the church in its prophetic task in our society".

The committee's second point draws the parallel between the proposed new legislation and the situation in Nazi Germany. "The German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was killed by the Nazi regime, made the point that for Christians it is a sin to be ignorant of the truth of affairs in the world around them. The government is taking the same line as that of Hitler - that the public must not be exposed to the truth in a time of growing military emergency - witness the Angola war. The fate of the Nazi government should be warning enough of the folly of this course of action."

Placing their third point on a scriptural basis the committee quotes Ephesians 4:15 "Let us speak the truth in love; so shall we fully grow up into Christ", to claim that one of the most dangerous aspects of the proposed new legislation is that it places the interpretation of truth in the hands of the government. Apart from the many objections which can be raised to this, says the statement, it goes against that Scriptural quotation.

The committee's last point claims that the proposals intervene in the just right of man to communicate freely what is happening in the world around him and would therefore be an assault on human dignity perhaps far more serious than any previous legislation introduced by the government, for "it removes that basic right of communication".



A call to the government to withdraw the newspaper bill and the proposed code as a matter of urgency, concludes the statement.

Reaction from church editors has been strong. The editor of the Roman Catholic newspaper, Southern Cross, the Rev. Donald de Beer, said he was especially worried by the reference to ethics of journalists in the bill, and pointed out that nowhere was a concrete example given of what would be regarded as ethical or unethical.

The editor of the Christian Leader, Rev. Francis Horner said "one of the last boasts that South Africa can make is that it has one of the freest presses in Africa. Should this legislation be passed, it will no longer be able to do so".

The Rev. Peter Storey, editor of the Methodist newspaper, Dimension, said that the Government had opted for censorship because it preferred to silence criticism rather than admit the failure of apartheid. He believed that it was quite ironic that a bill aimed at preventing damage to South Africa's name would probably do more damage in one stroke than a dozen reports.

EPS

#### CAMEROON PRESBYTERIANS GIVE SUPPORT TO PRISONERS

Buea, Cameroon (EPS) - All the 972 congregations of the Presbyterian Church in the Cameroon took part early in March in a joint effort to raise badly needed assistance for prisoners. The action followed a decision by the church's synod to dedicate this year's Women's World Day of Prayer to prisoners. Besides cash contributions donations also included food and clothing. These will be distributed to prison inmates by special committees set up for that purpose in the South West and North West provinces.

The church was moved to this action after persistent reports of the miserable condition of prisoners. The Christian Women's Fellowship also took up the challenge and Christians of other denominations seized the opportunity to unite with the Presbyterians to make the campaign a success.

Mrs. Grace Eneme, secretary of the church's women's work pointed that "no man is born a prisoner". "Any one of us can be a prisoner at any time, especially today in our country", she said.

In her letter Mrs. Eneme said that it is obvious that the help provided by the Christians is very meagre when compared to the magnitude of the problem. "Since we are not powerful enough to go to Yaoundé and present our feelings to the Minister, we have to start in a very practical way by saving the dying prisoner," she said.

When President Ahidjo addressed the issue of prison institutions three weeks later in Nkambe, North West Province, his declaration that prison reforms will soon be introduced was met with deafening applause.

EPS

#### NEW METHODIST BISHOP IN GERMANY

Geneva (EPS) - Hermann Sticher, minister of the Methodist Church in Ludwigsburg, was elected Bishop of the United Methodist Church in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin at the Central Conference in Pirmasens in early March.

Bishop Sticher succeeds Bishop Dr Carl Ernst Sommer, who retires after leading the church for nearly nine years following the uniting of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church.

EPS

CHURCH LEADERS SAY CHURCHES SHOULD  
SPUR BLACK RULE IN AFRICA

New York (EPS) - A group of 80 prominent Southern African and North American church leaders has declared the Christian church must "support and participate in the struggle" of blacks in Southern Africa against white minority regimes.

At a consultation sponsored by the National Council of Churches and the US Catholic Conference in Marcy, NY, the church leaders condemned what they called "intensified brutality and satanic repressive measures applied by white racist minorities against the vast black majorities in Southern Africa".

The message advocated US government aid to Angola and Mozambique where majority has been attained. In calling for such aid, the church leaders said: "We still believe, even at this late hour, that human suffering, bloodshed and hatred can be turned into peace with direct American involvement and identification with the oppressed. America has the necessary tools of peace to assist the restoration of the dignity of man in Southern Africa. But the time is running out, fast."

"We must point out that the choice by the black nationals to resort to armed struggle did not come as a first and easy choice," the church leaders said. They added, "Those in Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Namibia (South West Africa) ... saw the armed struggle as the only means left ... it seemed to them all else had failed to bring the white racists to the realization that discrimination on the basis of colour was sinful."

The participants also urged the churches to continue pressing US corporations with investments in South Africa to "disengage themselves from the explicit or implicit support of that regime". The leaders said they were making that recommendation "despite our deep frustration with the United States and Canadian government and business practices".

The five-day gathering, which was the first of its kind in North America, was attended by 25 church leaders from five nations in Southern Africa and 55 overseas mission and service executives from about 20 Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church.

In their message the church leaders stressed that the consultation was not in support of any government. "It is religious," they said, "because we work for justice ... in the understanding that the entirety of human life is of concern to God".

Among the participants in the consultation were Desmond M.B. Tutu, Anglican bishop of Lesotho; John F. Thorne, president of the South African Council of Churches; E.T.S. Buti, Sr, moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa, the black "daughter church" of the exclusively white Dutch Reformed Church; Archbishop Alexandre Dos Santos of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Maputo, Mozambique; Emilio de Carvalho, United Methodist bishop of Angola, and Sally Motlana, an officer of the South African Council and the All Africa Conference of Churches who was recently released from detention in South Africa.

EPS



## SWAPO HAILS REVERSAL OF DEATH VERDICTS, WARNS OF REARRESTS

London (EPS) - The South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) while hailing the setting aside of death sentences against two SWAPO leaders by the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein, has warned that the two "could easily be rearrested and held for unspecified reasons".

Aaron Muchimba and Hendrik Shikongo, sentenced to death in May 1976 for alleged complicity in the killing of Chief Ovamboland Minister Elifas, were freed March 17 by the Appeal Court. The conviction and long jail terms for Rauna Nambinga and Anna Ngaihondjwa, accused in the same case, were also set aside. The original trial had been attended by highly irregular tactics, including theft and harassment of witnesses by the prosecution.

SWAPO called attention to the fact that Axel Johannes and Victor Nkandi, two SWAPO members arrested with Muchimba and Shikongo, and who refused to turn State's Witness were rearrested on the day of their release (February 28) after completing one-year sentences. SWAPO's statement called on "the international community to campaign for the release of these men and extend the campaign for the release of all Namibian political prisoners held in South Africa's gaols".

SWAPO has informed UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim of reports that a large-scale round-up of SWAPO leaders and activists has been planned as soon as the South African sponsored Turnhalle Interim Government is established. The statement calls the idea "a desperate bid to weaken the nation-wide opposition to this ethnic neo-colonial plan".

Mr Waldheim was urged "to do everything in your power to unmask these tactics of aggression of the dying South African regime that is trying desperately to escape the tide of history in Namibia and in Southern Africa as a whole".

EPS

## REPORTS OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CUBA "EXAGGERATED", TEAM FINDS

New York (EPS) - Reports of human rights violations in Cuba have been called "exaggerated" by a National Council of Churches executive after an 11-day visit to the island. William L. Wipfler, mission director for Latin America and the Caribbean in the NCC's Division of Overseas Ministries, said some violations may exist in Cuba, but he had concluded that there is "considerable misinformation" about it in the US. On the basis of discussions with government and church leaders he was "impressed by the fact that the Cubans are dealing seriously with the question of human rights".

Mr Wipfler visited Cuba with seven church leaders under joint sponsorship of the NCC and the Cuba Resource Centre, a non-profit organization supported primarily by church contributions.

In a statement endorsed unanimously, the group said they are convinced "the US must take initiatives to normalize relations between our nation and Cuba and to change the situation that has isolated North Americans from Cubans and Cubans from North Americans". As a first step, the group recommended an immediate end to the trade embargo which has caused suffering among Cubans. Because the US has refused to trade with Cuba and has pressured many of Cuba's nearest neighbours not to trade with her, the Cubans have been deprived of many of the material goods they need, he said.

EPS

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL INFORMATION  
EXCHANGE URGED IN EASTERN EUROPE

Güstrow, DDR (EPS) - Communicators from European minority churches have urged the Lutheran World Federation and its member churches to strengthen ecumenical awareness particularly in Eastern Europe by reinforcing communication means between the churches. A set of recommendations adopted by 46 church-related writers and editors from 14 countries attending an LWF sponsored seminar here declared that communication is an integral element of the LWF Assembly theme "In Christ a new community" in Dar es Salaam, June 13-25.

Specifically, participants suggested the formation of a working group representing minority churches to promote and publicize decisions and discussions emanating from the Assembly, and to determine communication priorities in the post-Assembly period. The group should meet for three days in East Berlin in early September and develop a blue-print for the distribution and publication of Assembly reports and commentaries. The ten participants, plus a staff member, should come from the DDR, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, as well as from Austria, the Netherlands, France, England and Italy.

Further recommended was a three-year study programme of church-related communication processes and functions, as well as the ethics of religious journalism. The Ecumenical Institute in Strasbourg is to be asked to cooperate and to consider the convening of a workshop for church publicists. Also suggested was a documentation service for member churches, a handbook for church information personnel, and the use of the monthly ecumenical Intervox cassette service in Europe.

High priority was attributed to a recommendation asking the creation of a monthly, German-language LWF press service for member churches in Eastern Europe.

The seminar here, hosted by the National Committee in the DDR of the LWF, received wide press attention. It marked the first time that an international meeting of church communicators was held in the DDR, facilitated by the office of the State Secretary for Church Affairs of the DDR Government, Hans Seigewasser. At an official reception, Mr Seigewasser underlined that cooperation between Christians and Marxists is reflected in the Helsinki agreement.

EPS

VENUE CHANGE FOR SIXTH CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE OF ASIA ASSEMBLY

Singapore (EPS) - The sixth assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia will be held in Penang, Malaysia, from May 31 to June 9. This is in place of the original venue of Manila, Philippines.

The general secretary of the CCA, Bishop Yap Kim Hao, says about the change of venue "This sudden change of assembly location was necessitated by difficulties that we unexpectedly encountered recently. The Christian Conference of Asia indicated that their rules obliged them to have the assembly in a place where all elected delegates and staff could participate and fulfil the purpose of a regional assembly."

The related meetings of the Asia women's forum and the second Asian ecumenical centre will also be held in Penang. The Asia youth mission will continue to meet in Hong Kong.

EPS



ORTHODOX THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE  
OF THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

Geneva (EPS) - The things that the Orthodox churches feel are lacking in their participation in the ecumenical movement should be expressed jointly by the various Orthodox churches. It would then be easier to advance in practical ways their cooperation with the World Council and the other member churches. This was the substance of a conversation with EPS, given during a recent visit to Geneva of Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra, president of the Synodical Commission for Pan-Christian Relations of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The Metropolitan revealed that his commission is already working on a paper that will express these wishes and that as soon as it is adopted by the Synod of his church it would be circulated among all the Orthodox churches for possible additional ideas. At the conclusion of this exercise the paper would be submitted for discussion to the first available Central Committee of the WCC.

Although the Metropolitan declined for the moment to go into details he hinted that the Orthodox churches would seek a more flexible approach from the WCC on such questions as a common date for Easter, the role and function of Orthodox minorities in certain countries, and the Orthodox participation in debates on "certain hot issues".

In addition, Metropolitan Chrysostomos, a member of the WCC Executive Committee, pleaded for increased Orthodox representation on the WCC staff, both numerically and in quality. Out of the present executive staff of some 100 only five are Orthodox.

EPS

WACC GROUP MEDIA DEVELOPMENT  
SECRETARY NAMED

London (EPS) - The Rev. Don Roper has been named secretary for Group Media Development of the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) from May 1.

Mr Roper is an American Presbyterian with more than 30 years professional media experience. He will develop WACC's new programme in the simple use of audio-visuals, music, dance, drama and folk media.

He has long been involved in producing unusual programmes for worship utilizing a variety of art-forms.

Mr Roper served for more than 16 years in the radio and television department of the United Presbyterian Church, USA, and became the church's director of broadcasting in 1973.

From 1969-72 he was the developer and first executive director of EcuMedia News Service, a broadcast news organization serving Protestant, Catholic and Jewish groups in the USA.

For the past seven years he has been a religious commentator for Westinghouse all-news radio station in New York City.

EPS

#### POTTER TO CONTRIBUTE TO BROADER UNDERSTANDING IN NORWAY

Geneva (EPS) - On the invitation of the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations, the general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Dr Philip Potter, will visit Oslo May 14-17.

The announcement of the visit, released here and in Oslo today (March 24), says that Dr Potter will meet with the Council on Foreign Relations and other representatives of the church to exchange views on ecumenical relationships and on the finding of a bishops' committee that has reviewed the relationship of the Church of Norway to the ecumenical movement. The majority finding of this report recommends continued membership of the WCC. However, a minority report recommends a break.

The Bishops' Conference is due to discuss the matter further in November this year. Dr Potter's visit is seen as a contribution to a broader understanding of the ecumenical movement in general and the role of the World Council in particular.

EPS

#### PARENTS HIT BACK AT DISCRIMINATING PASTORS

Bergen (EPS) - The parents of 59 candidates for confirmation in Landås, Norway, have written to their pastors and bishop to say that they are shocked by a letter from 10 Bergen pastors which says that the pastors will not, and cannot, participate in any services or other arrangements where female pastors act as pastors.

The parents have stated in their letter that they want a "non-discriminating" pastor to take care of the confirmation ceremony. They describe the action taken by the pastors as "a cold wind from the middle ages" and say it is unbelievable that such discrimination against women can taken place in their country today.

A spokesman for the pastors said; "We are a group of pastors who want to take God's word seriously. We ask to be allowed to serve the church out of our own conviction."

EPS

#### DEBATE ON WOMEN'S ORDINATION CONTINUES IN FINLAND

Helsinki (EPS) - The debate on the ordination of women in the Church of Finland is not closed, it is learned here. The Bishops' Conference has just appointed a committee to assemble "for further discussion" opposing points of view. The committee includes persons advocating as well as opposing the ordination of female ministers. The bishops are represented by Bishop John Vikström who is known to be in favour of the ordination of women.

"There is no intention of burying the issue in a committee," an official statement declares, although no specific time table has been set.

A proposal to legalize the ordination of women in the church failed to obtain the necessary three-fourth majority at the Synod last November, although it was supported by a simple majority. A large majority of members of the Synod have stated since then that they believe the ordination of women is in principle in accord with the faith and doctrine of the Church. After that the Bishops' Conference was asked to study the issue and make recommendations.

EPS



EUROPEAN CHURCHES CALL FOR  
SOCIAL JUSTICE, DISARMAMENT

Gallneukirchen, Austria (EPS) - The Conference of European Churches' second post-Helsinki consultation, held here March 7-11, has called for international cultural, economic and social justice and for military disarmament. Representatives of 40 churches from 19 countries discussed the implications of the Helsinki Agreement (1975) for the relationships between Europe and the developing regions of the world.

They stressed the urgent need for the churches' active support of efforts for more just relations with developing countries and the less affluent regions of Europe. An immediate halt to the arms race and effective military disarmament were seen as mandatory for survival.

Results of the deliberations will be sent to member churches in the form of recommendations, inviting comment and appropriate action. Among the recommendations are:

- support for the rights of racial, cultural, religious and other minorities, including migrant workers, in active cooperation with such groups;
- better training facilities for young people from developing countries, geared to the needs of their countries;
- active intervention by the churches urging the Helsinki signatory states to renounce by treaty the use of a first nuclear strike, to withdraw tactical nuclear weapons from frontier areas and to take effective steps to ban particularly inhumane weapons (at present under discussion by the International League of Red Cross societies);
- services of intercession in churches and congregations for the forthcoming Helsinki follow-up conference at Belgrade;
- an active campaign by the churches against the irresponsible waste of energy in the European industrial countries at the expense of the poor countries, and for the rejection of an acquisitive consumer mentality - in which they must begin by setting an example;
- a serious study of the possible risks and dangers involved in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and of its possible misuse for military ends;
- a call for a new ethical attitude to work and the concept of human progress, with particular emphasis on energy-saving and labour-intensive technologies, especially for developing countries.

EPS

WEEKLY PAPER LAUNCHES  
FIGHT AGAINST TORTURE

Geneva (EPS) - The Swiss Protestant weekly "La Vie Protestante" has taken the initiative in the fight against torture and published a booklet which suggests ways and means of actively opposing "man's inhumanity to man". Under the title "A New Weapon against Torture" 18 contributors from the political, scientific and religious sectors advocate the formation of a permanent international control commission which is to be enabled to visit places of detention at any time without prior notice.

The articles list strategies to fight torture and provide guidelines on how to contact national, international and religious bodies for assistance in cases of known torture. Above all, a global strategy is needed the writers point out and suggest that a start should be made by calling a convention of a small number of countries representing various ideological trends which will do the preparatory work for a larger assembly that can be charged with developing a global strategy.

EPS

NATIONALIZATION OF RVOG IS  
DEEPLY REGRETTED BY LWF

Geneva (EPS) - The nationalization of the Radio Voice of the Gospel (RVOG) by the Ethiopian Government on March 12 is "deeply regretted" by the Lutheran World Federation which had built the station in 1963 and operated it since then. The Rev. Carl Mau, LWF general secretary expressed this at a press conference after returning here from a four-day fact-finding trip to the Ethiopian capital.

Mr Mau said the station is now "being used for purposes entirely alien to those for which it was originally conceived and built". He reported that nine of the station's 11 antennas are now idle, and programming is confined to Ethiopia and nearby Africa for four hours a day and mostly in the Arabic language. The station's call letters have been changed to "RVOR" for Radio Voice of the Revolution.

Previously, RVOG beamed 24 broadcast hours daily to large portions of Africa, Asia and the Middle East in 17 different languages. The station's current value was estimated to be around \$12 million. Mr Mau indicated that the LWF may file a compensation claim with the Ethiopian Government.

He said the station was a "voice used by many Christian denominations" and international agencies such as the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. Much RVOG programming "sought to address the needs of health, food, sanitation, literacy, education, information, development, and nation-building", Mr Mau said. He called RVOG a "voice for justice, peace, and human rights".

An Ethiopian broadcast said the station promoted "bourgeois ideology", that it was nationalized "to further the Ethiopian revolution", and that it was "strongly opposed by religious denominations" because it "would weaken other religions and develop the religion of certain believers".

Mr Mau said the take-over, while "abrupt and sudden", was not entirely unexpected. He noted that in a "Declaration of Economic Policy of Socialist Ethiopia" a year ago, it was said that mass media activities were classified as "exclusively reserved for the state". He added that the 14 area studios of RVOG, located in Africa and Asia will serve to develop alternative media outlets.

EPS

MONTREUX HOSTS CHRISTIAN  
TELEVISION FESTIVAL

Montreux (EPS) - Forty-six programmes from 15 countries will be presented at the fifth international Christian television week at Montreux, Switzerland, May 14-20. The pre-selection of the programmes was carried out in Geneva in mid-February.

The week is organized jointly by the European Association of the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) and the Catholic Association for Radio and Television (UNDA). The intention of this ecumenical week is to show and discuss programmes which "relate to faith, hope and charity in a pluralist society". These words are an attempt by the organizers to open up this Christian Television Week to all those making programmes about the deepest questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life.

The programmes selected will compete in three categories: information, drama - liturgy - entertainment, and educational. Awards can be given to the programmes judged to be the best in quality of content and format and the most likely to engage viewers. An additional seven programmes will be shown outside the competitive categories.

Previous festivals have been held at Monte Carlo (1969), Baden Baden (1971), Salzburg (1973) and Brighton (1975).

EPS



"SEEDS OF HEALTH" -  
A DRAMATIC NEW FILM

Geneva (EPS) - "Seeds of Health" is a dramatic new film on health and human development which tells the story of the Chimaltenango Development project in Guatemala.

Co-produced by the Christian Medical Commission of the WCC and the West German film company, Teldok Films, and in close cooperation with the World Health Organization, the film shows life among the Cakchiquel Indians in the highlands of Chimaltenango District.

For the Cakchiquel the main determinants of health are food, water and land, and the film seriously challenges many of the presuppositions on which health care systems are designed. It demonstrates the progress that can be made in promoting health and human dignity through mobilizing the community and through giving expression to the needs, goals and life-style of the people themselves.

The project was initiated by Dr Carroll Behrhorst as a small clinic. But it soon became apparent that this style of work did not get at the root cause of the disease in that area. Growing out of this was the deployment of "health promoters", a group of health workers chosen by their own communities for the task of preventive and promotive health activities as well as simple curative services.

The relationship of the Indians to the land is a crucial one in the struggle for food, water and health. Two per cent of the landowners in Guatemala own over 80 per cent of the land. Most of the peasants of the highlands own so little that they cannot grow enough food to feed their families from one harvest to the next, or must rent land on which to grow their precious maize. To feed their families, most of the peasants have to trek to the large plantations to work for several months each year, while the women and children are left to work the small holdings at home. To help this aspect of the problem, the project has begun to train "extensionists" whose tasks include hygiene, nutrition, modern agricultural methods as well as community development. All aspects of the work are co-ordinated at the clinic which serves as the base for training, refresher courses and guidance.

"Seeds of Health" is in 16mm colour and runs for 43 minutes. English, French, Spanish and German versions are available. An eight-page film guide is also available in all four languages. For further information about the guide and the film, write to CMC, World Council of Churches, PO Box 66, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

EPS

ARGENTINA CONTINUES  
SEARCH FOR LOPEZ

Geneva (EPS) - Dr Mauricio Lopez, the former World Council of Churches staff member and well-known ecumenical leader who was kidnapped from his home in Mendoza, Argentina, on January 1, has still not been found.

A letter from the Argentine Foreign Minister to Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the WCC, says that "unfortunately, up to this time (February 28) our enquiries into the disappearance of Mauricio Lopez have proved fruitless". The Argentine government also expresses their own concern and state that they are doing their utmost to find out where Dr Lopez is being held.

EPS

## AMRO BANK ACKNOWLEDGES ETHICS OF BANNING LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Geneva (EPS) - The Dutch member of the European-American Banking Corporation (EABC) has now gone on record as opposing the granting of loans to the South African Government and its agencies apart from those connected with the Dutch export trade to that country. As a result, "Prepaid Reply", a Dutch action group which supports the World Council of Churches Programme to Combat Racism, has called for ending the boycott against the Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank (AMRO) which it had instituted on the basis of the 1974 WCC Central Committee resolution urging the cessation of bank loans to the South African Government because they bolster the apartheid policy.

The other consortium members are: the Deutsche Bank (West Germany), the Société Générale (France), the Midland Bank (United Kingdom), the Société Générale de Banque SA (Belgium) and the Creditanstalt-Bankverein (Austria).

In an exchange of letters between AMRO and Dr Philip A. Potter, WCC general secretary, spanning three years, AMRO had pointed out last September that it had ceased making loans to the South African Government, but maintained that investments can be a form of practical opposition to apartheid. Further discussions have taken place between church and other groups and AMRO. "Prepaid Reply" has now reported from Amsterdam having received a letter from AMRO under date of March 10 in which the bank acknowledges that "without fundamental changes" (AMRO's exact words in translation), it will be unable to reconsider its 1973 policy of granting no further credits to the South African Government and its agencies.

AMRO went on to say that South Africa's problems would not be solved by "pseudo changes" and recognized that legally enforced racism in that country must be ended.

AMRO also stressed "the great importance that we also attach to non-commercial considerations in this field," an acknowledgement of the representations made to it by the WCC and local church and action groups insisting on the need for companies to recognize their corporate responsibility. The WCC here expressed hopes that the other member banks of the European-American Banking Corporation with which it has discussed this issue will adopt policies similar to AMRO's and will make their decision public. (See EPS no. 29, 7th October, 1976).

EPS

## RIGHT USE OF NATURE URGED IN CHRISTIAN-JEWISH CONSULTATION

Zürich (EPS) - Theologians and scientists, comprising Christian scholars from the Anglican, Protestant and Orthodox churches and Jewish scholars from the orthodox and liberal judaic traditions, met in Zürich, Switzerland, recently to discuss the Jewish and Christian traditions concerning nature, science and technology.

The various participants reached general agreement on eight points, perhaps the most significant of which says, "The application of science and technology must be governed by man's responsibility to God and to his fellowmen in present and succeeding generations."

The group recommended to the sponsoring bodies that they undertake a serious campaign to communicate to their respective communities the cardinal importance of defining humankind's practical relationship toward the physical world, its interdependence with nature and its responsibility towards God for the right use of nature. The WCC was represented at the discussions by Dr Franz von Hammerstein, executive secretary for Jewish-Christian dialogue.

EPS



# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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MANDATORY EMBARGO AGAINST  
S. AFRICA URGED BY THOMPSON

United Nations, NY (EPS) - The United Nations Security Council has been urged to call for an end "to all sales and transfers of arms, material, and military technology through a mandatory embargo" against South Africa, by a member of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee.

Appearing before the Security Council on 24 March, William P. Thompson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA who is also President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and President of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States, said "a growing number of Christians believe that the time has come for the international community to boycott South Africa economically". He called such economic measures "a permissible and necessary form of international action".

Mr Thompson addressed the Security Council in place of Dr Philip A. Potter, WCC general secretary, who had been invited to speak to the UN body on the situation in South Africa from the perspective of the ecumenical movement, but was unable to accept the invitation.

Mr Thompson pointed out that he did not presume to speak for the member churches of the ecumenical bodies in which he holds high office nor for individual church members, but that he appeared as an individual.

The system of apartheid as practised in South Africa "is an affront to the religious, moral, and ethical convictions of the churches, the United Nations and the world", he declared. "Apartheid as a system has economic, political, social and cultural ramifications, expressed in a multitude of discriminatory laws and practices" but involving "a more basic issue because it violates the meaning of creation, the very nature and destiny of all humanity".

Apartheid borders on the denial of even the right to life itself, Mr Thompson said and "in a religious sense it involves the breaking of the fellowship of those who believe in God as the creator of all people".

He spoke out against an "international system (which) undergirds the military and police structures of South Africa through the sales and transfer of technology and military hardware" and strengthens the "economic structure through the continued operations of transnational corporations in South Africa". The continued flow of "investments and loans make the apartheid system profitable".

The American church leader listed actions taken by the churches to express their deep concern about racism. He highlighted the mandate by the Fourth Assembly of the WCC at Uppsala in 1968 "to undertake a crash programme to guide the Council and the member churches in the urgent matter of racism". This resulted in the launching of the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism to express solidarity with the racially oppressed in all parts of the world, and included financial support to the liberation movements of South Africa for humanitarian programmes, primarily in health and education. While this financial support has been minimal, he said, "the moral support has been probably more valuable, while the educational impact both within and outside the churches has been considerable".

He acknowledged that a number of countries including the United States have indicated they are practising voluntary prohibition on arms sales and transfers, but said they have not been effective in eliminating oppression. He warned that the danger of an escalating international conflict involving the major powers remains and declared "the time has come to call upon transnational corporations to close shop in South Africa".

(more)



Mr Thompson congratulated Ambassador Andrew Young, president of the Security Council and conveyed to him greetings from colleagues in the ecumenical movement. He recalled that Ambassador Young had been closely associated with the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism.

EPS

PATRIARCH JUSTINIAN  
DIES

Bucharest (EPS) - The spiritual head of 15 million Rumanian Orthodox died on 26 March in Bucharest. His Holiness Justinian, Patriarch of All Rumania, was 75. The Rumanian Ministry for Religious Affairs announced that the Patriarch would be afforded the protocol of a national funeral. Patriarch Justinian had led the Rumanian Orthodox Church since 1948 and in a telegram of condolence sent to Metropolitan Justin of Moldavia, locum tenens, Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the WCC, described the death of the Patriarch as "a great loss for Rumanian Orthodoxy and the ecumenical movement".

Since his election Patriarch Justinian had made great efforts to promote open and constructive relations between the Orthodox Church and the State. He gave a new constitution to the church which has today 11,000 priests in some 10,000 parishes, two university-level theological institutes with 1,150 students, as well as seven seminaries with 1,400 students. In 1950 he set about reorganizing the country's 300 monasteries, linking their spiritual life with service to Rumanian society. He worked hard to see the Rumanian Orthodox Church as a member of the WCC, this was achieved in 1961. That year also saw the Patriarch at the first Pan-Orthodox Conference in Rhodes where he pushed strongly for the consolidation of Orthodoxy. His interest in ecumenical affairs and his concern for the unity of the church is seen in the increasing number of international religious conferences and meetings which have met in recent years at his invitation in Rumania. He was equally concerned about unity and collaboration between the various religious communities in Rumania.

Ioan Marina (Patriarch Justinian's civil name) studied at the Theological Faculty of the University of Bucharest and was a parish priest from 1926 until 1930. He was then appointed first, professor, and then, director, of the theological seminary in Vilcea. In 1947 he was elected Metropolitan of Moldavia where he served from 1945 to 1947 as episcopal vicar. On the death of Patriarch Nikodim in 1948 Justinian was made head of the Rumanian Orthodox Church, numerically the second largest Orthodox Church in the world. During his 30 years of ministry as the Patriarch, His Holiness Justinian pleaded for and brought to fruition in daily church life his idea of "social apostolate", working out the social and missionary approach of church work in a new type of society. He wrote 12 books on this subject.

EPS

DR JOHANNES LEIMENA DIES

Jakarta (EPS) - Dr Johannes Leimena, noted Christian leader, died here on 29 March. The first chairman of the Student Christian Movement in his country, he was a medical doctor and served in mission hospitals. During Indonesia's independence struggle, he identified with the nationalists and held many Government posts including Minister of Health and Minister of Food. He was a leading member of the DGI (National Christian Council of Indonesia) and its honorary president. He was a member of the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. Dr Philip A. Potter, WCC general secretary, in a cable of condolence said he was "a pioneer and devoted servant of the ecumenical movement. His life, witness and service will continue to inspire us".

EPS

COMPANIES AGREE ON PRINCIPLES  
FOR SOUTH AFRICAN AFFILIATES

New York (EPS) - Twelve major US companies have agreed to implement a set of six principles concerning the operation of their affiliate companies in South Africa. The companies include some of the world's best known names, Ford Motor Company, IBM, 3M and Mobil Oil Corporation among them.

However, their statement adds, "Where implementation requires a modification of existing South African laws or customs, we will seek such modification through appropriate channels".

The six principles state:

1. Non-segregation of the races in all eating, comfort and work facilities.
2. Equal and fair employment practices for all employees.
3. Equal pay for all employees doing equal and comparable work for the same period of time.
4. Initiation of and development of training programmes that will prepare, in substantial numbers, blacks and other non-whites for supervisory, administrative, clerical and technical jobs.
5. Increasing the number of blacks and other non-whites in management and supervisory positions.
6. Improving the quality of employees' lives outside the work environment in such areas as housing, transportation, schooling, recreation and health facilities.

The other companies identified as supporting these principles were American Cyanamid Company, Burroughs Corporation, Caltex Petroleum, Citicorp, General Motors, International Harvester Company, Otis Elevator and Union Carbide Corporations.

Commenting on the agreement the director of the Interfaith Centre on Corporate Responsibility, Tim Smith, said that he welcomed any decision by corporation managements to pay decent wages, humanize working conditions and increase benefits. "Church stockholders", he added, "have been raising these questions with management over the last 10 years".

However, Mr Smith said that changes in wages and working conditions should not be confused with the basic social change necessary in South Africa and that the corporation agreement should not be seen as a step in the direction of re-ordering South African society. He went on to detail the continuing investment programmes of some of the signatory corporations in their South African affiliated companies and said that most of the major issues church stockholders have raised during the last decade are totally ignored by the corporation agreement. "I think it is fair to ask whether the agreement is a diversionary tactic to evade dealing with these other questions", Mr Smith continued.

Mr Smith's statement concluded that churches "should aggressively argue that the manifesto is a weak response to a black rebellion in South Africa and that it deliberately ignores many real issues such as loans, expansion, investment in bantustans and sales of strategic materials".

EPS



LWF MAKES ALTERNATIVE PLANS  
FOR RVOG MINISTRY

Ferney, France (EPS) - Alternative plans for continuing the ministry of the Lutheran World Federation's "Radio Voice of the Gospel" (RVOG) which was taken over by the Ethiopian Government on 12 March will depend on the findings of three "survey and planning teams" which are to investigate the capacity of RVOG's twelve studio centres in Africa.

The LWF's communications commission at its spring meeting here decided that there should be three "survey and planning teams", which should visit the 12 centres from where programme materials were fed into RVOG for broadcasting from Addis Ababa. The commission resolved that each team is to have at least two representatives from: the LWF, the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) and the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC). The visits are to be made within the next two months with the objective of meeting with local church leaders and studio personnel and develop firm proposals for continuing the communication ministry through whatever media outlets seem appropriate, feasible and acceptable to the local churches. The teams are to assess at the same time what additional equipment, personnel and finances will be needed at each studio. The studios in India and the Middle East which also prepared broadcast material for RVOG are not included in the forthcoming study.

EPS

DE VRIES NAMED HEAD OF SWISS  
PROTESTANT TV PROGRAMMING

Geneva (EPS) - The Rev. Michael de Vries, head of the World Council of Churches radio and television operations for 15 years, has been named director of Television Services for the Protestant churches in the French speaking part of Switzerland and an associate producer of the Geneva-based television network. He will assume his new post on 1 October, succeeding Professor Jean-Marc Chappuis, who is retiring in order to concentrate on his academic work and theological as well as public communication research.

Born in Rotterdam, Mr de Vries participated in the student resistance movement and was deported to Germany during the war. While continuing his studies following the war he worked for Dutch radio agencies. After serving a Lutheran parish in Nijmegen from 1950 to 1956, Mr de Vries became executive director for television of Station IKOR in Hilversum with responsibility for religious programming. He joined the staff of the World Council of Churches following the third Assembly in New Delhi (1961), and established a television and radio section which serves the churches and public media around the world with news and information and programmes about the ecumenical movement. The WCC sound archives, developed by Mr de Vries, are the most comprehensive and inclusive history on tape of the ecumenical movement in existence from the time of the first Assembly in Amsterdam in 1948 until today. They contain an estimated 10 million feet of recorded tape.

Mr de Vries is vice-president of the World Association for Christian Communication and chairman of its European section.

EPS

LATIN AMERICAN THEOLOGIANS  
DISCUSS "THE PEOPLE OF GOD"

Sao Paulo (EPS) - The third international consultation of the Latin American Theological Fraternity (Fraternidad teologica Latinoamericana) took place recently in Vila Kostka, Itaici, near São Paulo, Brazil.

The fifty-five theologians, pastors and lay leaders from twelve countries took as their theme "The People of God". Four papers were presented: The singularity of the people of God, by Richard Foulkes, of San Jose, Costa Rica; The people of God - a healing community, by Daniel Schipani, of Puerto Rico; Preparation of the people of God for service in urban areas, by Samuel Escobar, of Cordoba, Argentina, and The Church as a discipling community, by Peter Savage, of Buenos Aires.

The Latin American Theological Fraternity was begun in Cochabamba in 1970 and held its second consultation in Lima, Peru, on Evangelism, in December, 1972

Its objectives are to reflect on the meaning of the Christian Gospel for Latin America and to form a platform for an interchange of ideas between Christian thinkers, on the basis of the Bible, in order to speak more effectively to their culture.

At the Itaici consultation, members and observers developed six projects to work on in the next four years. These include; Exegesis of God's Word and of today's world, for example poverty and wealth; the family; the Gospel and culture; Structures of power and of justice; toward a Christian philosophy of education and youth work, and an evangelical reflection.

EPS

YMCA DIVIDED ON VENUE FOR  
1977 WORLD COUNCIL

Geneva (EPS) - The vice-president of the YMCA, Rev. Hans Verner Lollike, has announced that he does not wish to participate in the Association's World Council in Argentina in June/July and that he will not accept renomination for the executive committee.

An intense debate in a plenary session of the President's Committee of the YMCA about the venue for the World Council revealed a growing degree of polarization within the Association.

The wisdom of holding the World Council in Argentina had been questioned by the governing boards of the YMCA in Denmark, Sweden and France, in view of the political situations and violations of human rights in that country. The President's Committee, after having heard the various points of view expressed by European and Latin American delegates, voted nine for, one against and two abstentions, on maintaining last summer's executive committee decisions.

The vice-president's comment on the situation said: "When we, both as a movement and as churches, profess to want to serve the needy and outcast, then it seems inconsistent to conduct the assembly of the YMCA World Council in Argentina where human rights are being trampled under foot.

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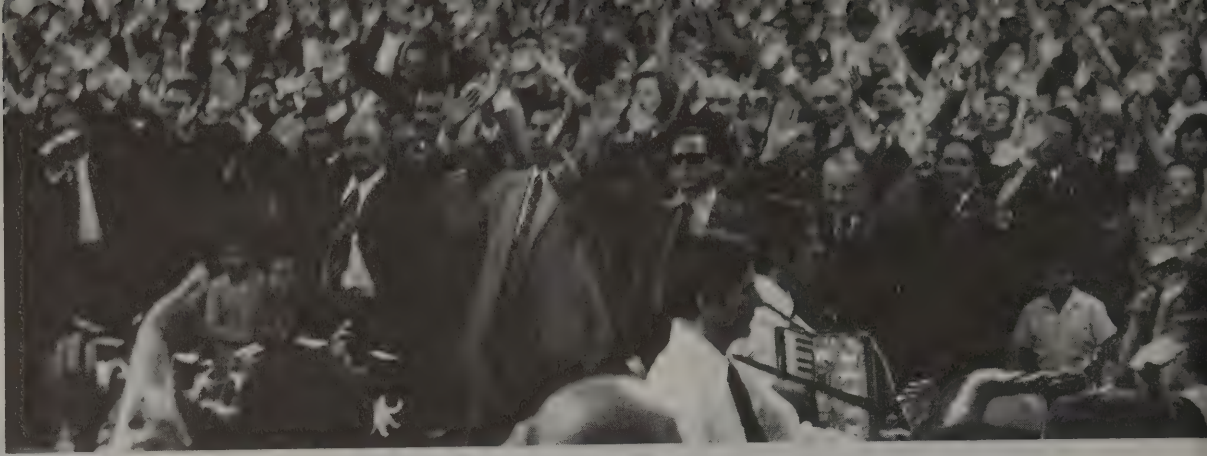


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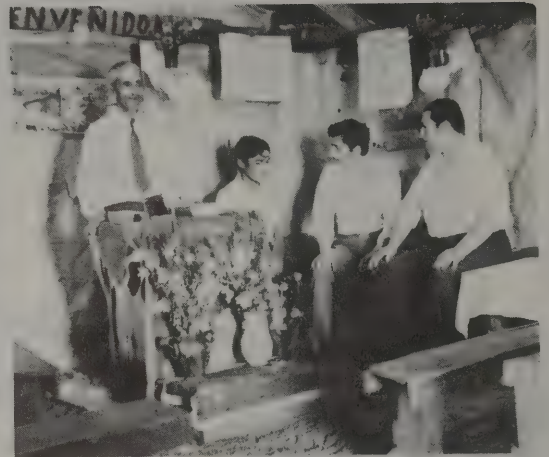




1938



1940

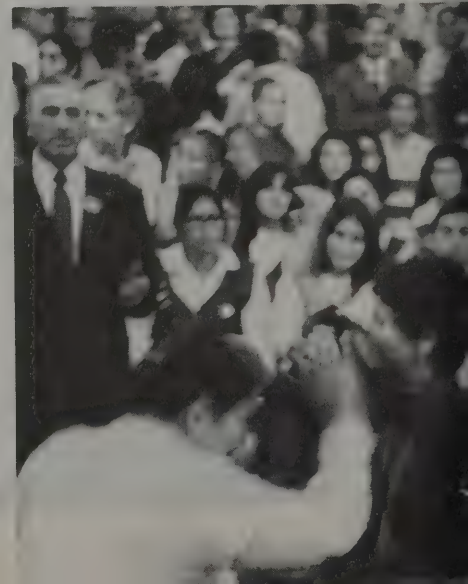


1943

1945



1942





## PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY IN CHILE

Six thousand members of the Pentecostal Church of Chile assembled for the final day of the week-long 30th Assembly of that church in Curico, Chile. Earlier 120 pastors and other representatives had discussed the life and development of the work of this church. Seven men were made deacons and nine presbyters at an ordination service attended by 4,000 at which Rex Davis, WCC staff member preached. The church earlier that day had voted to admit women to the order of deacon. The church is distinguished

1944

by the practice of "dancing in the Spirit" as an initiatory sign of Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Its leader, Bishop Enrique Chavez was a member of the former Central Committee of the WCC and brought this church into membership of the World Council.

(1938) Shouts of "Alleluya" and "Gloria a Dios" punctuate the five-hour service.

(1939) The organ is drowned by guitars, accordians, drums and trumpets. Music is an integral and constant part of worship.

(1940) Spontaneity and informality mark the worship.

(1941) Persons led to "dance in the Spirit" are guarded from injury by stewards.

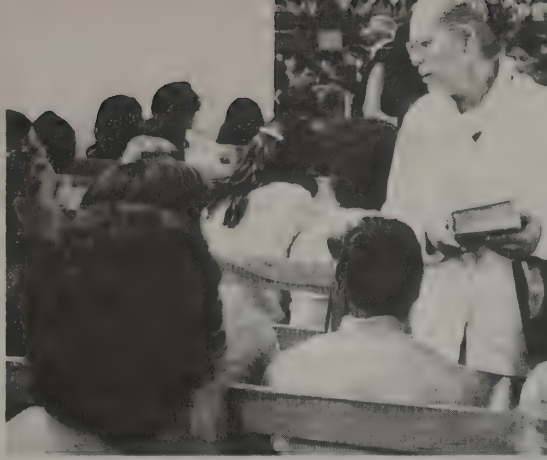
(1942) Bishop Enrique Chavez C. leads the worship.

(1943) A typical meeting "local" on the outskirts of Curico.

(1944) Classes held on the Sunday afternoon are led by lay people.

(1945) a request for a healing prayer is met on the spot.

Photos R. Davis/WCC.



1941

1939





1946



1947



1948



1950

## KAMI - SHIBAI ON NAIROBI

Since Asia is a multi-lingual continent and English only serves for the élite in many of its countries, the Asia Desk of the WCC Intercultural Church Aid Department decided not to present its report of the WCC 5th Assembly (Nairobi 1975) in written form. Instead they used the traditional Japanese way of story-telling - Kami-shibai (paper-theatre). This set of Kami-shibai is made up of 14 symbolic pictures with texts, describing the churches' role in Asia. Some 1,000 copies of it have already been distributed. (Copies are obtainable from National Council of Churches of Japan)

- (1946) - Structural change as a means of eradicating the root causes of injustice.
- (1947) - The focus of attention should be the poor and oppressed.
- (1948) - The gap between the rich and poor is increasing.
- (1949) - Improvements to promote giving and receiving.
- (1950) - Unity of the churches and peoples is essential to an effective ministry.

Illustrations: Yushi Nomura/WCC



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## WCC LEADERS IN TALKS WITH EAST EUROPEAN CHURCHES

Budapest (EPS) - A consultation between leaders of the World Council of Churches and representatives of the member churches in Eastern European countries took place at the end of March in Budapest.

Archbishop Edward Scott, Moderator of the WCC Central Committee, General Secretary Dr Philip Potter and Deputy General Secretary Dr Konrad Raiser represented the WCC to delegates from 27 member churches from seven socialist countries: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, the USSR and Yugoslavia. (Rumanian Church members were prevented from attending because of the death and burial of Patriarch Justinian.)

The meeting was one of a series of consultations being carried out by the WCC with member churches in different parts of the world. The development of more intensive participation of member churches in the East European area in the programmes of the WCC was the main item considered.

Dr Philip Potter, in his address, pointed out WCC programme areas where contributions from member churches in socialist countries were particularly expected. "It is necessary", he said, "that the churches in different situations give witness of Jesus Christ, thus mutually enriching and strengthening one another."

Bishop Tibor Bartha of the Reformed Church in Hungary, stressed that the awareness of belonging to an ecumenical community has been present in the Eastern European churches from the beginning. He indicated parts of the WCC programme that particularly affected the churches in socialist countries.

On the basis of the introductory addresses, a lively, frank, and open exchange of views developed. Four areas emerged where cooperation should be enhanced.

Great significance was placed on the unity issue. Discussion also took place on the programme for "a just, participatory and sustainable society". Disarmament and human rights were also discussed. The consultation placed great emphasis on the need to increase communication between the WCC and member churches. The question of member churches' representation on ecumenical committees and theological reflection on Christian life in socialist societies were also thoroughly discussed. The importance of a positive Christian response to ideological challenge was emphasized by several speakers.

The participants unanimously requested the WCC leaders to organize similar consultations in the future. WCC representatives and the Hungarian hosts, the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary, were received by Mr György Aczél, deputy prime minister of the Hungarian People's Republic, and Secretary of State, Mr Imre Miklos, president of the State Office for Church Affairs. They held an exchange of views with the ministers on the social responsibility of Christians, and on the churches' contribution to the solutions of the great issues of mankind.

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EPS SPECIAL

INDOCHINA CONSULTATION URGES  
CONTINUATION OF WCC AID

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from

Bruno Kroker

Hong Kong (EPS) - The work of the WCC's Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina (FRRI) should be taken over by a working group when the fund's mandate runs out in August in view of the continuing urgent needs of the people in the war-devastated countries, a consultation which convened here 5-8 April has recommended.

Proposals made at the consultation will be submitted to the Unit II Commission (on Justice and Service) of the WCC which meets at Royal Holloway College, near London, from 17-24 April.

The consultation called particular attention to the need for completing a programme that would irrigate 480 hectares of land and supply water for 50,000 people in Pham Yan Coi, a new economic area in Southern Vietnam, at an estimated cost of \$1 million. Pressing needs in Laos include irrigation and pumping equipment for \$950,000 and livestock for \$184,000 "to avoid hunger and malnutrition by undergirding the principal means of food production which are rice fields and water buffalo". These would "fulfil moral commitments previously made by the FRRI in light of reported pledges of support", the consultation declared.

High tribute was paid at the consultation to the work of the FRRI, since its formation in 1973 immediately on the cessation of hostilities, by representatives of the National Peace Committee of Vietnam (Hanoi) and of the Laotian Department for Relations with International Agencies (Vientiane).

Do Xuan Oanh, a member of the presidium of the Vietnam Committee for the Defence of World Peace, said help from the churches through the WCC had been not only physical but also spiritual. "The WCC has demonstrated again the Bible lesson not to administer but to minister to the needs of people", he said.

The consultation was chaired by Mrs. Anna Abayasekera of Sri Lanka. Participants represented Christian Aid (United Kingdom); the Canadian Council of Churches; Church World Service (USA); the Episcopal Church (USA); the Australian Council of Churches; the Church of Christ in Thailand; Bread for the World (Germany); ICCO (Netherlands); Ecumenical Aid Foundation (also of the Netherlands); and staff leaders of the Christian Conference of Asia and the WCC.

Dr C.I. Itty, staff moderator of the WCC's Unit II and executive director of the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development (CCPD) reported that the fund had processed reconstruction projects worth \$8.5 million in Laos and Vietnam and that most of this amount had been disbursed. Projects financed cover a wide field ranging from irrigation and other agricultural improvement endeavours to the establishment of health centres and industrial plants.

The recommendation for continued church involvement in Indochina's reconstruction efforts was based on a one-week fact-finding trip by participants to Laos and Vietnam just prior to the consultation. The group that went to Laos reported a desperate need in that country for international concern. World organizations have consistently neglected to extend aid and agricultural improvement efforts are hampered by the absence of basic support. The FRRI priorities are therefore given

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as the completion of the agricultural school at Nabong, a number of irrigation projects, livestock disease prevention work, small feed mills, and regional repair and training shops for agricultural equipment.

Laos is still struggling to return a quarter of its three million people (or 700,000) to the land from which they were displaced by the war and also to give them an economic base on which to build.

The Vietnam team said that although the war has been over for two years, the Vietnamese are still in the beginning stages of the "tremendous tasks involved in putting their country back on its feet after 35 years of nearly continuous war". The "social and economic problems faced by the government are truly staggering," and "we left Vietnam with a renewed conviction that the ecumenical community as well as the national churches...must continue to assist the Vietnamese people in overcoming these difficulties to the maximum extent possible".

Still awaiting completion is the Hai Hung Provincial Hospital (60 km from Hanoi), for which FRRRI allocated \$2.2 million. Strategically located to serve the people of an entire province, it will not only provide hospital health care but also primary health services at the village level and train paramedics, nurses and related workers.

About to be realized with \$2.1 million of FRRRI funds is the construction of a canvas shoe factory in the Dong Da district of Hanoi, scene of heaviest bombing in December 1972. Shoes are in very short supply in all of Vietnam, there being only two factories in the whole country. A substantial number of people will obtain employment when the factory is built.

Further supporting the recommendation for continuing aid programmes was the team's report on the new economic areas in Southern Vietnam, so designated to resettle people from overcrowded cities in rural areas and meet urgent needs for employment, housing and food.

The team said that "the need to share the experiences in socialist countries in Asia with the constituent units of the WCC...is of paramount importance today". It urged that the task of sharing information, interpretation and education should be one of the main ongoing concerns of the WCC. Participants acknowledged that the FRRRI as the creation and instrument of the WCC has contributed greatly to reconciliation and reconstruction in Indochina, but that "the challenge of continuing reconciliation and reconstruction still remains".

The recommendation calls for the formation by concerned churches and agencies of an enlarged working group on Indochina. Conceived as a consortium, it should be related to and report to Unit II. Members would be appointed by churches and agencies, representatives of the WCC, CCA, churches in this region of Asia, and of the peoples of Indochina. The group would seek funding for reconstruction and reconciliation projects and promote understanding in church constituencies of the problems facing the people of Indochina.

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PROGRAMME OF ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Geneva (EPS) - The continuing debate and action over the churches' involvement in the Helsinki agreement on human rights has taken a further step forward. A letter has now been sent to the member churches of the WCC in the area covered by the Helsinki agreement from the director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA), Leopoldo Niilus. The letter sets out the recommendations of a small, representative planning group which met in Geneva, in March, and outlines possible further steps for the development of the churches' ecumenical activities in this field.

The group's report states that "the churches have a major responsibility to demonstrate further that we are able to reach across the many different barriers which separate the peoples of the area, deepening our commitment to one another in the search for the establishment of truly just societies".

While expressing these broad sentiments the group was anxious that some concrete actions might be seen to take place, therefore, remembering that face-to-face contact between church representatives is most important, they recommend that yearly meetings take place between representatives of the churches in the area so that results of common studies may be shared and that the representatives enter into discussions on one or more topics related to human rights and religious liberty in the Helsinki context. Other discussions should include current human rights and religious liberty concerns in the area including an exchange of information regarding the general situation, and concrete cases, and evaluate the effectiveness of ecumenical undertakings in this field making the necessary programme adjustments.

Suggesting that the subject "the relationship between the individual and society in a Christian perspective" should be the first topic of study, the group recommends the following areas of special concern: the right to life; to enjoy and maintain a cultural identity; to dissent; to participate in decision-making within the community; to personal dignity; to choose freely a religion or belief which includes freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, worship and observance.

The group report also sets out some practical ways of dealing with instances of violations of human rights and religious liberty of groups and individuals. It suggests that such help should be at three levels, national, sub-regional, and Helsinki agreement. At the national level, the group recommends that each church or national council locate responsibility for human rights and religious liberty concerns with an existing specific body or create such a body for developing its own church programmes and liaise with similar bodies in the Helsinki area.

At the sub-regional level churches may decide to group together within geographical areas in such a way as not emphasize differences but help to overcome existing barriers.

To cover the whole of the Helsinki agreement area the report suggests that the Conference of European Churches, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and the Canadian Council of Churches, in consultation with individual churches in the area, jointly establish a consultative body on human rights and religious liberty of some five to seven persons, possibly lodged with the Conference of European Churches, to work in close cooperation with the NCCC-USA, the CCC and the WCC.

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A further meeting is recommended of representatives of member churches in the Helsinki signatory states for July, 1977.

The members of the group making the report were: Dr Alexei Bouevsky, USSR, Prof. Ion Bria, Rumania, Prof. Aldo Comba, Italy, Prof. Karoly Gabris, Czechoslovakia, Mr Ekhard Kruger, West Germany, Dr Belle M. MacMaster, USA, and Rev. Paul Oestreicher, UK.

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#### RESURRECTION LIKE FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY; SAYS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

Geneva (EPS) - An Easter message from Demetrios of Constantinople, the Ecumenical Patriarch, released here, speaks of the resurrection as "passing from slavery to freedom". The Patriarch suggests that the resurrection rises above selfish human motives, pettiness of spirit and smallness of soul, and all men's hypocrisy.

He goes on to praise with love and respect the creations of man, when in all their different forms their intention is to make life better and bring happiness to mankind.

In concluding, the Patriarch says: "By the resurrection let salvation be accorded to all mankind, by the pardon which is given to them; let scarcity and richness be divided justly; we call for an effective application of justice; we ask for freedom for all mankind, until death and beyond death, because Christ is risen".

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#### MORE TRAINING IN COMMUNICATION NEEDED FOR AFRICAN WOMEN

Kitwe, Zambia (EPS) - Because "women are the more oppressed of the oppressed" and their numbers are small in the communication profession, training institutions should admit more women and find new ways for their participation in the media, an international "women in the media" consultation has found.

Sponsored by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) at Kitwe, Zambia, in mid-March, the consultation was attended by 33 women from East, Central and Southern Africa. They concluded that the media in Africa today does not reflect the image, spirit or character of Africans and especially not of African women. Most Africans learn what they know in personal encounter, but the introduction of radio, television, and print has created a financial burden which is heavy to bear for the ordinary person while its usefulness in communicating is highly questionable. The language is far above the head of the ordinary person and out of the cultural context.

The consultation found that the technological media have become "media of oppression - concentrated in the hands of a few political, intellectual and financial elite who decide what everyone should hear, when they should hear it and how".

The consultation urged a "new thinking in the profession of communication to personalize the media, giving the people an opportunity to speak to themselves, about themselves and for themselves". They advocated the training of communities in their own communication process in which the dual role of women as mothers and workers should be reflected.

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## 17TH KIRCHENTAG IN WEST BERLIN

West Berlin (EPS) - Tens of thousands of participants are expected this year at the 17th Kirchentag of the evangelical churches of West Germany, from 8-11 June in West Berlin. The participants and the 1,000 official representatives of WCC member churches will take part in parish life in the centre of the city and talk around the theme, "Bear one another's burdens".

As in 1975 in Frankfurt the organisers have retained the feature of seeing some 300 presentations of what churches and church-related groups are doing in their parishes. This has proved to be one of the greatest attractions of the Kirchentag gathering which was begun in 1949 by von Thadden-Trieglaff and is held every two years in West Germany.

The Kirchentag's aim has always been to make people aware that faith is not only a matter of theology, but includes practical involvement.

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## WACC JOURNAL NOW PUBLISHED IN LONDON

London (EPS) - The WACC Journal, a magazine of the World Association for Christian Communication, is now being published in England. The redesigned Christian Communication quarterly appeared first from London at the end of March devoted to the media worker and the church.

WACC Journal had been published in West Germany since it began in 1970 and has been edited by Mr Hans-Wolfgang Hessler, editor-in-chief of Evangelische Pressedienst, the news agency of the West Germany Protestant Churches, until the editorial offices were moved to London this year. It is sent to some 2,300 WACC members and special subscribers in more than 50 countries.

The WACC is an ecumenical organization based in London, committed to developing more effective use of media by churches. It channels funds to communication projects in Third World countries as well as providing professional services to churches in their media work. Its membership includes churches and church-related communications organizations as well as secular broadcasting organizations.

Dr Michael Traber, a Swiss Roman Catholic priest with 17 years' experience in publishing in Africa, is the new editor of the journal.

The editorial board of WACC Journal is headed by Dr Curtis A. Chambers, general secretary of the United Methodist Communications, USA. Other members represent the six WACC regional associations around the world.

The magazine's main language is English but summaries appear in French, Spanish or Portuguese and German.

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WALKER NAMED DIRECTOR OF WORLD  
EVANGELISM FOR WMC

London (EPS) - Dr Alan Walker, well-known Australian evangelist, has been named as new director for world evangelism of the evangelism committee, the World Methodist Council. Dr Walker will succeed Dr Raoul C. Calkins, current administrative assistant to the evangelism committee of the World Methodist Council.

When the World Methodist Council adopted a five-year plan for world evangelism in Ireland last year, it issued a summons that by every means available, the 62 constituent churches of World Methodism should seek to carry the Christian Gospel to the people. The plan calls for each church to go about evangelism in its own way and whenever possible to seek ecumenical cooperation.

Dr Walker has been superintendent of the Central Methodist Mission in Sydney for the past twenty years and is probably Australia's best known churchman. He founded the first Life Line Christian telephone counselling centre in Sydney, a movement which has spread around the world. Since 1966 he has been the president of Life Line International.

Dr Walker first came to prominence in evangelism through his leadership in the fifties of Australia's Mission to the Nation. He has conducted evangelistic missions in more than thirty countries.

As director of world evangelism for the committee, Dr Walker will engage directly in evangelism and will teach evangelism through schools for pastors and the laity and lectures in theological seminaries. He will develop ecumenical relationships with the churches in evangelism and with the Commission of World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches.

Dr Walker will continue to be based in Australia but will be continually visiting churches world-wide.

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NEW PRESIDENT FOR  
UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

New York (EPS) - The new president of the United Bible Societies has been named as Dr Oswald C.J. Hoffman, long-time preacher on the Lutheran Hour radio programme.

Dr Hoffman succeeds the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Donald Coggan, who was the second president of the agency. UBS is an international fellowship of 59 Bible Societies engaged in Bible translation, publication, and distribution in 150 countries. He has been on the board of managers of the American Bible Society since 1964, and currently chairs the ABS translations subcommittee.

Ordained in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in 1939, Pastor Hoffman was the Synod's official observer at the second Vatican Council in 1964-65 and North American chairman of the International Congress for World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1975.

Besides his radio work, Pastor Hoffman has been a public relations executive, film-production adviser, college professor, and parish pastor.

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Attached to this issue is an announcement of the new  
WCC documentation service  
WCC EXCHANGE

ROLE OF RIOT POLICE  
IN SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town (EPS) - Members of Parliament in Cape Town have been presented with a memorandum dealing with "The riot police and the suppression of truth" by an Anglican priest, the Rev. David Russell.

The memorandum, which is likely to spark off a furore in government circles, seriously questions the role of the police during the unrest in the Cape Town area over Christmas last year and in their subsequent investigations.

Mr Russell, in reminding the MPs that they had received a report on the "Role of the riot police in the burnings and killings in Nyanga, Christmas, 1976", said the subsequent banning of this report had resulted in some people believing that it contained "a basically untrue picture of the evidence in question. I believe it be my duty to write to you to testify to the truth of what was written."

The memorandum by Mr Russell was released in Johannesburg on 18 April. Mr Russell alleges that:

- The state is confronting the church by trying to force churchmen to break confidences. "We Christians and priests of God's Church feel we are duty bound to maintain confidence. The Church will continue to be a channel of Christ's compassion for all who are oppressed."
- The "riot police are guilty of harming race relations and the welfare of South Africa". It was "mockery of justice and truth for members of the ministers' fraternal of Langa, Gugulethu and Nyanga, to be accused of producing documents which harmed race relations and the welfare of the state. It is the activities of a section of the riot police that have had such a disastrous effect on race relations and it is their activities which are so harmful to the long-term welfare of our country. It is their activities which are shattering confidence in structures of authority, and which will provoke desperate and despairing violence in response". It was hoped that by exposing some of the "shocking things" which had taken place during the Christmas weekend, that the authorities would act to halt them.
- Many people in the townships in Cape Town had a fear of the police, flowing from the actions of the police during the unrest.
- The original report by the ministers' fraternal about the unrest was banned as undesirable literature "because it brought appalling truths to light". The memorandum says that since the report was sent to MPs and others, "and since the police started investigating, it appears to many of us in the fraternal that it is we clergy who are being investigated, and not the activities of the riot police".
- Many were prepared to testify as to the truth about the matters contained in the original report on the unrest. It is pointed out that in January, a group of Nyanga residents conducted their own investigation and sent a memorandum to the secretary of the commission. "Their account further confirms the facts as presented in the ministers' fraternal report. Moreover, they and several residents are prepared to give verbal evidence in court. They asked the commission to return to Cape Town, but a reply received six weeks later made it clear that the commission did not plan to return."

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- The report on the role of the riot police in the unrest over Christmas contained a basic truth and that any "possible inaccuracies discovered would be of minor significance and (would) rather serve to highlight the basic veracity of the total contents". Mr Russell makes the point that he has personally interviewed and rechecked accounts of many eye witnesses involved in the unrest.

The memorandum devotes two paragraphs to questioning what the police and security police are doing with evidence which they have at their disposal.

The five-page memorandum contains further eye witness accounts, recorded by Mr Russell, similar to those accounts which appeared in the original report on the role of the riot police.

In the final section of the report Mr Russell says he has submitted his memorandum in a belief that he is serving the public interest. "This memorandum is being published as a matter of urgent public concern, in the hope that it may act as a deterrent. While I do not want to suggest that all riot policemen act brutally, the activities of some have created a gulf of mistrust and fear and anger", he said.

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#### ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO VISIT WCC

Geneva (EPS) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. and Rt Hon. Donald Coggan, will be visiting the World Council of Churches Geneva headquarters on Tuesday, 3 May. This stop will be the last in a series of calls to church centres. He will visit His Holiness Pope Paul VI, in Rome and the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Dimitrios I, before his Geneva visit.

HE WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CHAPEL OF THE ECUMENICAL CENTRE  
IN GENEVA, AT 14.15 ON TUESDAY, 3 MAY, 1977.

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#### SIR LOUIS MBANEFO DIES IN NIGERIA

Geneva (EPS) - Sir Louis Mbanefo, a man who gave distinguished service to the Anglican Church in Nigeria died recently. Dr Philip Potter, in a message to the church in Nigeria said: "We remember with profound gratitude his deep devotion to Christ and the Church and his outstanding public service in maintaining and struggling for justice in Nigeria and throughout Africa. We recall too his ecumenical spirit and great contribution to drawing the Nigerian churches together in witness and service."

Sir Louis was the first chairman of the Anglican Consultative Council (1971-75) and worked tirelessly for the church. He was a lawyer, and was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 1952 and became Chief Justice of the Region in 1959. He was knighted in 1961.

He was active in politics before independence and from 1950-52 was a member of the Eastern Nigerian House of Assembly and a member of the Nigerian Legislative Assembly.

He retired from the Judiciary in 1970 and devoted all his time to working for the church.

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LAUSANNE 1977: A DEMONSTRATION  
AGAINST ECUMENICAL HALF-HEARTEDNESS

Lausanne (EPS) - Faith and Order, the "theological pillar" of the World Council of Churches in the search for unity, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in Lausanne (Switzerland) 26-29 May - the Whitsun period. The occasion will be "a demonstration against ecumenical half-heartedness," said Lukas Vischer, the director of the WCC Secretariat for Faith and Order. It will also be an opportunity to take stock in the search for unity. "The Unity of the Church: What is to be done?" is the question which Dr Philip Potter will try to answer in his address in Lausanne's Palais Beaulieu. Lectures, an ecumenical vigil and a special service in the cathedral where fifty years ago the first world conference on matters of doctrine between churches of different confessions was opened will also feature on the programme.

Many changes have taken place since 1927. What, then, was a conference chiefly dominated by western Protestant churches has developed into a world-wide community of churches in which cultures and backgrounds have engendered new ways of doing theology. While discussions on unity may sometimes be heated and divergences still remain, almost all churches today agree that unity is now more possible than ever before and acknowledge that their differences could be a stimulant rather than a handicap.

Since the first Lausanne conference theological dialogue has progressed and gained greatly in quality and scope. In 1928, for example, a papal encyclical forbade Catholics to join the growing efforts for ecumenism. Today there are twelve Roman Catholic members of Faith and Order. Moreover, since 1965, links between the Vatican and the WCC have been strengthened by a Joint Working Group.

While Lausanne 1977 represents an important milestone in the development of Faith and Order, it will also give fresh impetus to the search for unity. As Lukas Vischer said recently, "Although we are no longer entrenched in our strictly confessional positions, this does not mean that we have now entered into unity". One might say that the churches have reached a "half-way house". Practical steps are now needed to ensure that we all move forward together in the same direction.

For 50 years Faith and Order has been a melting-pot in which prejudices and preconceived ideas have been dissolved in dialogue and respect. It has produced theological statements on many of the churches' concerns and also on many of the challenges coming from society.

To this end, various studies are presently being carried out. "Giving account of the hope that is in us" is an attempt to restate the Christian faith for men and women of our times; "The Unity of the Church and the Unity of Mankind" seeks to give the churches a more global and fitting vision of their role today. Another study is devoted to analysing the implications of Church-State relations for Christian mission and witness, and lastly, the growing responsibility of the laity and their role is being sought in a new study, "The Community of Women and Men in the Church".

One as yet unsolved problem concerns the common celebration of the eucharist. This remains impossible despite the fact that all the churches share the one true Gospel. However, after the Whitsun celebrations, some forty theologians from all over the world will study and analyse the responses Faith and Order has received from about seventy-five churches to its document "One Baptism, One Eucharist and a mutually recognized Ministry." The question this seminar seems likely to ask the churches is: "What steps are you prepared to take now?" This may well be a test of their ecumenical conviction. As Lukas Vischer says, "In the years ahead, the churches' witness will be not what they say, but what they are and what they do."



TORTURE ALLEGATIONS IN  
SOUTH AFRICA

Geneva (EPS) - A new publication from the Christian Institute of South Africa documents claims made by 115 prisoners that they were tortured by the South African police and records the stories of 49 people who have died in police detention.

The 76 page report poses a question which is on the lips of millions of South Africans: "Torture in South Africa?", and is a deeply disturbing picture about which CI regional director Rev. Theo Kotze says: "We would desperately like to believe that all this is untrue."

In a special issue on 13 April the Government Gazette announced that the dossier has now been banned as "undesirable". It is without doubt the careful factual way that the document is presented that has brought about the "banning" order.

Thus the list of deaths in detention covers the period from that of Looksmart Solwandle Ngudle on 5 September 1963, who was posthumously "banned" after an inquest found that he died by "suicide, hanging" to that of Samuel Malinga who was being held under the terrorism act and died on the 22 February, 1977.

The torture described in detail from affidavits includes electric shocks, compelling people to lift weights while wearing shoes containing pebbles and kicking and punching. One method of torture which inevitably draws attention because of certain deaths, is the threat of being dropped from upstairs windows.

All the information in the document is attributed either to Hansard, press reports or surveys by the South African Institute of Race Relations. The report also states that the names of 37 blacks who had been allegedly tortured were given to the Prime Minister by clerics in Namibia in 1973 and that the reply from the Prime Minister's department stated that the matter had been investigated and allegations were found to be without foundation. But, continues the report, the clerics believe that Mr Vorster has done nothing about the allegations.

In the letter accompanying the report Theo Kotze says: "We must ponder deeply and pray about the questions this document poses. We cannot ignore them. To do so would be, like Pilate, to wash our hands of our suffering Lord.

"Our hope is that you will be motivated to demand with us that the detention laws be scrapped forthwith, that South Africa returns to the Rule of Law under which all citizens are at all times protected from being tortured."

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GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLITANS APPEAL  
TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Athens (EPS) - The 11 Orthodox Metropolitans, elected during the dictatorship in Greece and who were deposed in 1974 by the hierarchy of the Greek Orthodox Church, have appealed to the Secretary of the Council of Europe to intervene on their behalf. According to a report in "Typos", an Athens publication, the metropolitans were denied the right to appeal to the Council of State on the legality of their claim. This Council can judge according to the laws in force in Greece.

The metropolitans say this denial is contrary to the Rome Convention of human rights. They are therefore asking the general secretary of the Council of Europe to enquire of the Greek Government if, according to Article 57 of the Rome Convention, Greek legislation guarantees the application of norms for human rights contained in Articles 6 and 13 of the said Convention.

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MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
APPROVES NEW PROGRAMME

Beirut (EPS) - Closer collaboration between Christians in the Near East, the situation in the Lebanon, and work among refugees will be agenda items for the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), set for 1 June in Jordan. Until then the new general secretary of the MECC, Gabriel Habib, will be visiting member churches and preparing with them for the meeting.

The first meeting of this new Committee at the end of March had to take practically all the important decisions for the MECC. For the second Assembly, which met a few weeks earlier in the Lebanon, was marked by deep splits over the choice of a new general secretary. The deliberations scarcely passed the procedural stage. The gathering elected its three presidents and Executive Committee, and gave them the task of deciding the main thrusts of the MECC's work in the years to come.

The Executive Committee has 15 members equally divided between the Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant Churches. It has the task of restructuring the MECC and fixing its priorities. A result of this will be the creation of a resettlement and social services office which, in cooperation with the WCC, will continue the work the WCC has done with refugees in Beirut. Work among women and youth will be carried out in cooperation with the department of Christian education. Human rights and justice and peace concerns will be placed with a newly created commission. Assistance to the Palestinians will be continued as well as the activities of the departments dealing with radio, Christian literature, inter-church aid and development. Christian education and dialogue and witness have been united in the department on theological concerns.

The last decision taken by the Executive Committee, but also the most expected, was the election of Gabriel Habib to the post of general secretary. A lay member of the Orthodox Church of Antioch, Gabriel Habib was from 1963 to 1973 secretary for the Near East of the Youth Department of the WCC and World Student Christian Federation. He has since occupied the post of director of the Near East Ecumenical Bureau of Information and Interpretation, an organ of the former Near East Council of Churches.

In responding to his election, Mr Habib first paid tribute to the outgoing general secretary, the Rev. Albert Istiero, and continued: "If our past was one of divisions, our future should be one of unity to be achieved through an adventure of love in humility similiar to that of Jesus Christ who loved the world up to the cross. Only through such an experience will the world know that he has sent us and made us servants of reconciliation".

Founded in 1974 in Nicosia the MECC succeeded the former Near East Council of Churches. Its 22 member churches represent 10 million members from Morocco to Iran and from Turkey to Sudan divided into three confessional families: Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox (Prechalcedonian) and Protestant and Anglican Churches.

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## FLOOD APPEAL FOR 20,000 VICTIMS IN BOLIVIA

Geneva (EPS) - Following extensive flooding in Bolivia at the early part of the year CICARWS (Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service) has launched an appeal for \$212,000 to fund projects in affected areas.

The delay in making the appeal is because of the mountainous area and communications difficulties in coordinating the programme.

Now, based on recent reports by the national emergency committee of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Bolivia the appeal is made for food and material to repair the homes of those who, having lost their houses, continue to live in schools and colleges. Medical care is also needed for these victims.

The rural population is in need of assistance to reconstruct their family subsistence level farm units and replace their livestock, poultry and agricultural tools. Overall it is estimated that 20,000 people were affected. In some areas 60 per cent of the houses have been lost and 20 per cent of clothing and kitchen utensils; in other areas where the average smallholding is three hectares planted with rice, yucca and bananas and where poultry and livestock are reared, 60 per cent of the livestock and almost all the poultry are reported lost. There were naturally heavy losses of agricultural implements. In the suburban areas, there will be need to provide food for six months. This may well apply to rural areas as well, but they in addition will require seed, grains, fertilisers and insecticides.

Ecumenical communities are established in the three areas of Santa Cruz, Chapare and Beni, and show excellent cooperation between Baptists, Methodists, Roman Catholics and local cooperatives. They are ready to administer the rehabilitation programme when the money is supplied.

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## GERMAN PASTORS AID THEIR FILIPINO COLLEAGUES

Stuttgart (EPS) - On the eve of a rise in the salaries of Germany Protestant pastors, Rev. Hans-Otto Hahn, the director of the "Diakonische Werk", has strongly urged help for colleagues in the Philippines. Pastors and other retired workers of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) receive a pension amounting to the equivalent of only \$6 a month, the maximum their church can give with its poor resources. This is way below the necessary minimum.

In its programme on "Churches help Churches" this part of the Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD) has made a grant of over \$100,000 to ensure that the pastors have a pension of at least \$32 a month. This sum, as well as donations from American churches, will constitute a "retirement fund". The interest from this fund will gradually allow the UCCP to make its own decisions and progressively gain its independence from the former missionary churches.

This "programme for independence", which apart from the retirement fund also takes in other sectors of social work and Gospel proclamation, is being discussed throughout the church in the Philippines.

Pastor Hahn, in emphasizing the urgency of the project, drew attention to the way that Philippine Christians were working towards autonomy.

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EMPHASIS ON YOUTH AND EVANGELISM  
ADDED TO THAI CHURCH PRIORITIES

Chiang Mai, Thailand (EPS) - The 14th general assembly of the Church of Christ in Thailand in session here 4-9 April endorsed five priorities (renewal, leadership development, reorientation in terms of mission, reevaluation of the ministry, witness to Thai society) and added two new ones, an emphasis on youth - including rural young women - and evangelism. In other important action, the assembly added a new Pakh or Presbytery to the church structure bringing the total to 14 Pakhs in the 31,000-member church. However, while the present Pakhs represent geographical areas and some ethnic groupings, the newest will consist of lepers, ex-lepers and others who have felt isolated and want to exert their identity. While much discussion centred on this issue, the assembly approved the action.

Dr Koson Srisang, general secretary, viewed events at the assembly as paving the way towards greater unity. "We are willing to say we are one body and this is symbolized by the fact that our schools, hospitals and other institutions, which have operated autonomously, will report to the Government annually together with my office on one united balance sheet."

Dr Koson's speech before the assembly was greeted with enthusiastic and prolonged applause despite accusations by an earlier speaker that he is leaning politically towards the left.

Attending were 150 full delegates, the same number of associate delegates and over 100 observers. There was more participation by delegates from rural churches. Delegates ruled that the next assembly must adequately represent women and youth and that the constitution must be amended accordingly. Dr Koson said the assembly reflected that "democracy is in operation within the church" in Thailand today. This, he said, is significant because of the recent change in government which is backed by the military, there being not an elected but an appointed legislature. "The Christian Church, because of its ultimate loyalty and allegiance to Christ can, with difficulty, withstand the political winds, left or right. If we can't do that, we are no longer a church", he declared. He also described the assembly as emphasizing the new ecumenical direction which the church has chosen. He pointed out that one of the major speakers addressing the Assembly was Dr Yap Kim Hao, general secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia.

For the first time in the history of the church the assembly was attended by a large number of observers from other faiths, and from the Roman Catholic Church.

EPS

CARDINAL CONWAY DIES: WCC SPEAKS  
OF "UNTIRING EFFORTS" IN IRELAND

Geneva (EPS) - The death of Cardinal William Conway, Archbishop of Armagh and primate of all Ireland, was announced on Sunday, 17 April. Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the WCC in a message to the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland said: "We associate ourselves with all who mourn the sudden death of Cardinal Conway. We give thanks to God for his outstanding ministry of teaching and pastoral care and for his untiring efforts to heal the wounds of division between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. We pray that his ministry of reconciliation will be continued with added zeal by all Christians as they strive for justice and peace in Ireland."

EPS



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28th April, 1977

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UNIT II COMMISSIONS MEET, STRESS JUST,  
PARTICIPATORY, SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Egham, England (EPS) - For the first time five commissions of the World Council of Churches met concurrently at the Royal Holloway College, to relate the theme "Towards a Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society" to their own operations. They acknowledged the title of the programme as awkward but accepted the wording as an appropriate designation of the current WCC emphasis.

The one-week discussions here represented a first opportunity for the full membership of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS), Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development (CCPD), the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA), the Programme to Combat Racism (PCR), and the Christian Medical Commission (CMC) to review the work of these sub-units following the Fifth WCC Assembly at Nairobi in December 1975. The five commissions together constitute the Programme Unit on Justice and Service (Unit II) in the WCC's structure. Each commission has an average of 25 members and five consultants. Including staff, attendance amounted to 200 persons.

The search for different and new means of sharing resources within the ecumenical fellowship dominated discussions of CICARWS commissioners. It will be the focus of a major study programme, results of which are to be submitted to the 1979 Central Committee sessions. It was emphasized that "resources" include not only the traditional ones such as funds, personnel and material aid but also spiritual resources, ideas, experiences and solidarity. This "sharing between equal partners" should extend into all aspects of church life and witness: diakonia, mission and liturgical life.

Seeking to break once and for all with the traditional donor/receiver concept, the commission affirmed its conviction that all churches have something to give and something to receive. Only by "accepting this, can they truly be members of the one Body". The "action/reflection" programme on the Ecumenical Sharing of Resources will utilize experiences gained over the years in inter-church aid; mobilize the talents of those actively involved in the field; seek closer cooperation with other units and sub-units of the WCC; act as a means of evaluating the work, and provide guidelines for the future.

The move towards greater regionalization, characterized by increasing cooperation with regional ecumenical bodies and church-related agencies, will continue. The historic project system is gradually to give way to a country programme approach: a composite, integrated approach to the needs of churches and communities within a country. The aim is to create a larger sense of solidarity and mutual caring among churches and Christians.

Other concerns discussed included the growing number of refugees in all parts of the world, the need for recognizing and protecting their fundamental rights, the struggle against violations of human rights, the work of material aid, and responses to emergencies and disasters. Commissioners expressed their desire not only to encourage sharing among the churches and the ecumenical fellowship, but to become involved in a process of sharing among themselves and staff to strengthen the work of the commission as a whole.

CCPD commissioners expressed deep concern that the principles adopted by the UN in 1974 with regard to the New International Economic Order have so far not led to new developments and that practical negotiations have been delayed. The churches must be alerted to this issue, information should be distributed and governments urged to work towards a New International Economic Order. The study/action programme of the CCPD was also discussed. A document for consideration by the Central Committee is expected from a consultation to take place in June.

The commissioners stressed the need to place greater emphasis on theological issues in the areas of development and justice. They received a staff study paper on the church and the poor and urged regional efforts for making church-related groups reflect on these issues. Regional representatives suggested possibilities for regional strategies regarding CCPD efforts. For instance, the Latin American group stressed the need for launching a programme for the training of "cadres" or "development motivators". It was also decided to appoint a four-member committee, largely composed of new members, to evaluate the work of the CCPD in the last seven years and to identify future priorities. It is felt that all development work should be able to be easily evaluated. Endorsement was given to the core group's directions for the work of CCPD in relation to three main areas: 1) to assist the churches to see life theologically in mission, and solidarity with the poor and oppressed, 2) to provide support for the organization of poor and oppressed people, and 3) to assist the churches in their search for a Just, Participatory and Sustainable Society. Toward these three priorities the commissioners approved programmes of study, development, education, technical services and financial assistance.

CCIA commissioners approved a formula for the constitution of a 25-member advisory group on human rights "to deal with the global concerns of the WCC in this field" in accordance with the recommendations on human rights adopted by the WCC Central Committee last year. The work of this group is to be carried out within the framework of recommendations on human rights of the Fifth Assembly in Nairobi. It will report to the CCIA and provide a means for examining and evaluating problems and serious cases of violations of human rights which are brought to WCC attention.

The group may recommend to the CCIA areas for further intensive work to remove root causes of violations, further develop ecumenical guidelines on human rights, and promote greater ecumenical understanding and cooperation for the implementation for human rights. Procedures for dealing with serious violations of human rights may be suggested by the group which may point out areas in which further theological reflection is required on Christian concern for the implementation of human rights and on the concrete involvement of the churches. The group would meet at least once a year. Its membership is to consist of four each from Africa and Asia, one from Australasia, two from the Caribbean, three from Latin America, two from the Middle East, one from the Pacific, two from North America, and three each from Western and Eastern Europe.

Commissioners were given a progress report on the new study programme on militarism and the armaments race which is lodged in the CCIA. The Consultation on Militarism will be held in November 1977 and the Conference on Disarmament in early 1978.

The Commission also received a report on CCIA activities related to the United Nations and programme proposals for the coming period.

Situation reports on racism highlighted discussions of the Programme to Combat Racism. Participants spoke out against the forthcoming referendum in Namibia for the formation of an interim government in accordance with recommendations of the so-called Turnhalle Conference. Fears were expressed that Namibia would become "just another Bantustan". Also it was pointed out that the UN-recognized SWAPO (South-West African People's Organization) would be excluded. Press reports of plans for the resettlement of white farmers from Southern Africa (Rhodesia, Namibia, South Africa) in Argentina, Bolivia and other South American countries were heard and staff was asked to research them.

New emphases of the PCR in coming years will be the issue of land rights of indigenous peoples.

(more)



The necessity to continue to expose the root causes of ill health and disease led the Christian Medical Commission members to strongly reaffirm the urgency of de-emphasizing the role of institutionalized forms of curative care. The means to positively promote health are to be found in the motivation of people to become involved in their own health, in the exposure and struggle against social injustice and in the comprehensive concern for human and community development. In these days when church hospitals can no longer afford to treat the poor, when more and more governments wish to take responsibility for the running of hospitals, this approach is the most relevant one for the churches.

In the years ahead, three subjects will come under scrutiny in the CMC study programme: 1) the local understanding of health and healing in different societies and congregations; 2) traditional (indigenous) forms of health care; and 3) medical and bioethics. In order to more effectively involve the local congregations as well as national and regional councils of churches, the CMC Commissioners decided to hold regional meetings during the next two years until the next full commission meeting can be anticipated.

The 17 regular commissioners who attended the meeting were joined by three Roman Catholic observer/consultants and three guests and twenty different countries were represented. Each expressed a determination to serve as an extension of the CMC in the various regions, particularly to bring to wider attention the innovative and courageous work of those who have successfully discovered alternatives for the churches' concern for the health and well-being of the poor and unserved.

EPS

#### A JOINT CHURCH TO CONSOLIDATE FAITH

Nsumba, Tanzania (EPS) - Protestants and Catholics in Tanzania have decided to "break the brick barriers which separate them". For more than two years Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, Presbyterians and Moravians at Nsumba, near Lake Victoria, have been using the Catholic church each Sunday to hold their services.

When the Lutherans approached Father Damian Milliken about using his church for Protestants who lack funds to build their own church, he replied: "At its base our faith is one, there is an urgent need for Christian churches to cooperate." Pastor J.N. Mandu of the Lutheran parish in Nsumba replied: "This type of cooperation helps Christians to consolidate their faith in Christ rather than in their own denomination."

EPS

#### NEW EDITOR FOR BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES BULLETIN

London (EPS) - The British Council of Churches have appointed the Rev. Michael Meech as editor of Vision One, the Council's bulletin which is published as an inset to the WCC's monthly magazine One World.

Mr Meech (44) is a Methodist minister now working as a newsreader and presenter at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). He is the author of a study course on "Communication" for Methodist local preachers and co-author of a booklet on Church Work in New Towns. He has visited the USA, Canada and Singapore on professional assignments and has travelled widely in Europe and the Middle East.

EPS

CATHOLIC CARDINAL VISITS  
BCC ASSEMBLY

London (EPS) - "In public we seem to be moving further and further away from Christian values: in private there seems to be an increasing longing for God and for the things of God", said Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, in addressing the Spring Assembly of the British Council of Churches in London this week. The Roman Catholic Church is not a member of the Council but the Assembly responded warmly to what was described as "a unique occasion". The Cardinal took the opportunity of expressing his good wishes to the President of the BCC, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Donald Coggan, as he set out on his "ecumenical pilgrimage" to Rome, Istanbul and Geneva.

The Cardinal drew attention in his talk to the human rights issues by saying: "The Church itself has a question of its own to put to the world: by what standard do you judge the many issues which crowd in upon you? The issue of human rights is the fundamental question of the day. It is an issue which must make a special call on the energies of every follower of Jesus Christ... we cannot talk about human rights or human dignity, unless we are ready to say 'behold the man'."

The Assembly received a report from the Council on Christian Approaches to Defence and Disarmament, dealing with convention arms, their supply and sale. It accepted the emphasis on the particular responsibility of the churches, not only as national institutions concerned over weapons exports, but also as international bodies with a responsibility for peace.

After an important debate on arms to South Africa the Assembly, considering the deteriorating situation in Southern Africa, agreed to call upon the British Government to improve the effectiveness of the present embargo on arms sales to South Africa. The British Council of Churches asked the Government not to collaborate militarily in any way with the South Africa Government.

The Assembly welcomed the diplomatic initiative on Rhodesia of Dr David Owen British Foreign Secretary and expressed the hope that his discussions on the possibility of the United Kingdom and the United States co-sponsoring a conference to develop a clear timetable for achieving majority rule in 1978, will speedily lead to a just and peaceful settlement.

In a debate on the nuclear crisis, the Bishop of Kingston, Hugh Montefiore, said that the churches are taking seriously the problem of nuclear fuel. He said he was amazed at the division of opinion among experts, about all the aspects of the plutonium economy and the nuclear supply of fuel. "There is no ethical basis on which we can justify risk-taking in this field until the matters have been more fully investigated and a greater measure of agreement achieved," he said. "It is time that this country began to conserve fuel resources. People who are technical experts are reluctant to make moral judgements. It is all the more important that the churches should take up this difficult issue," he concluded.

The Council passed a resolution calling for a more responsible attitude by Government and churches towards conservation of fuel resources and policies on sources of energy.

EPS



## NEW ARRESTS IN SOUTH KOREA

Seoul (EPS) - A new wave of arbitrary arrests has begun in South Korea against Christian leaders. According to religious sources, some 19 persons were arrested on 13 April by South Korean police and imprisoned. They are accused of having participated in collecting signatures for the "Charter for Democracy". This charter was published in March, by some 10 political and religious personalities and asked for the abolition of the state of emergency declared in 1975 by President Park Chung Hee, a return to democracy and the rehabilitation of all political prisoners. This document which already had some 300 signatures was confiscated by the police during a raid in early April on the offices of the Commission on Human Rights of the National Council of Churches in Korea.

Most of the people arrested are militants in the campaign for human rights. Among them are Lee Jik-Hyong, secretary of the Commission, as well as Kim Kyong-In, his assistant; Cho Wha-Soon, president of the Urban Industrial Mission and one of his colleagues Cho Chi-Song.

According to observers these arrests emphasize the strong desire of the government to put an end to the campaign for human rights. It is also significant that these arrests only took place after the departure of an American Congress delegation which had been seeking information on the human rights situation.

In addition, five of the 150 theology students who had publicized a "declaration of suffering" at the end of a Lenten worship service on 7 April at the Seminary of Hankuk were also arrested for having violated the anti-communist law.

Just a year ago international opinion was shocked to learn that 18 Christians had been arrested for having asked, during an ecumenical service held in the Myong-Dong cathedral in Seoul, for President Park to step down, the restoration of democracy, the ending of the state of emergency, the freeing of political prisoners, freedom for the legal system and a return to parliamentary rule. At a first trial they were given sentences of up to eight years. They appealed and the sentences were reduced to a maximum of five years. But the Supreme Court, in spite of various appeals, refused to revise this judgement. Observers see in this attitude a reaction by the South Korean regime to criticisms by President Jimmy Carter to human rights violations in that country.

After the arrests of 13 April President Carter was asked in a letter sent by 12 Catholics and Protestants in the USA to express his profound concern to President Park's government about "his harassment and persecution of Christian leaders" and "to use his prestige" to obtain freedom for the 19 detainees .

This letter which was transmitted to the White House by American Ambassador to the UN, Andrew Young, was signed among others by William Thompson, president of the NCCC, USA, by leaders of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches as well as by two members of the Roman Catholic Order of Maryknoll, which is very active in South Korea.

EPS

## JAPANESE CHRISTIANS AND THE FATE OF ASIA

Tokyo (EPS) - Japanese Christians have made only very little effort until now to improve relations between their country and other Asian countries. This is one of the conclusions of a forum of some 40 economists, theologians and Christian leaders who met in Atami in April to consult over the question of the responsibility of Japan in Asia. From the economic point of view the forum emphasized that Japan has been slow both in giving financial aid and in purchasing commodities from Third World countries. There was a lively debate on the strategies and tactics to be used which would allow the Japanese people to express their solidarity with the suffering people in Asia.

The forum agreed that there is a real weakness in the work of professional theologians in Japan in regard to creating a strong theological foundation for the Christian involvement in Asian countries.

The group recommended that a theological institute, such as Doshisha University, should establish a course on theology in action in Asia. In addition "an Asian Sunday" should be set up to be observed by all the churches in Japan. This would help Christians to better think about the situation and events in Asia and possibly raise money for action.

EPS

## ECUMENICAL CENTRE REPRESENTATIVES MEET IN MADRID

Madrid (EPS) - Representatives from eight ecumenical centres, drawing people from seven confessions active in Spain, met recently in Madrid to discuss a number of issues, including, Spain as a Roman Catholic country and the question of religious liberty; the civil law on marriage and how it affects religious liberty; should the church be subject to the State or to the faithful believers, and also to share details of the activities of the centres represented.

As a result of the discussions four points emerged;

- a) there is a need for a revision of the law that regulates civil rights and religious liberty. This needs to be done so that a reply can be made to the Vatican II and the WCC's statements on the subject.
- b) the need to eliminate existing discrimination concerning religious ceremonies and marriage.
- c) the need to accelerate the process of the church gaining economic independence from the State.
- d) the urgent need to find and promote new forms of ecumenical action, such as cultural, religious and moral programmes at the local church level.

These problems exist, in the main, because Spain has, up to now, been a country which confesses Roman Catholicism, says the statement. These same problems are of less importance between the different Christian denominations where there is an open, ecumenical spirit meeting the demands of the Gospel.

The seven denominations represented were the Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Spanish Episcopal Reformed, the English Speaking Evangelical, the Spanish United Baptist Churches, and The Salvation Army.

EPS



DR NELSON ELECTED PRESIDENT  
OF THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

New York (EPS) - The new president of the American Theological Society is the Rev. J. Robert Nelson, professor at and former dean of Boston University's School of Theology. A United Methodist, Dr Nelson has been dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School, taught theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology and the Gregorian University in Rome. For many years he has been a member of the Faith and Order Commissions of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Chosen ATS vice-president at the annual meeting here was Father Avery Dulles, SJ, a professor at Catholic University in Washington, DC. The American Theological Society was founded in 1912 as a forum for leading religious scholars in the United States and Canada.

EPS

COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SUGGESTED  
TO FRENCH RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Paris (EPS) - In a letter sent to the heads of religious communities in France, a number of French, Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Jewish and Muslim personalities suggest the creation of a body to waken the conscience of believers and encourage them to become sensitive to the problem of religious persecution.

The letter expressed sorrow that in many countries the desire to stifle and destroy man's conscience and dignity is growing. The writers declared that they had "a duty to speak for our brothers who cannot practise or speak their faith freely". They also expressed their conviction that concerted action by believers of all persuasions and all races would give hope back to those who suffer in defence of liberty.

EPS

PROTESTANT TOGOLESE REMOVE  
THEIR "RELIGIOUS MANTEL"

Lomé, Togo (EPS) - The Evangelical Church in Togo wants to lose its Western trimmings and become authentically African. This was how Rev. E.D. Trimua, chaplain of the Protestant College in Lomé, summed up the spirit and intention of the 1977 Synod which met earlier this year in Pya, in the north of Togo. The Synod called on Evangelical Christians in Togo to fully live as Christians in all aspects of life. One of the priorities will be the renewal of liturgical life. The accent will be put on the use of elements of traditional culture in worship. This will require a deep study of the folklore, poetry and music of Togo so that traditional culture and heritage can be used without contradicting Christian faith and hope.

New liturgy will respond to the aspirations of Togolese Christians and be shared with other spiritual traditions. The search for an authentic African expression of the Christian faith will proceed by stages. Small communities will be formed by families to experience a life of encounter, prayer and sharing. These communities will play the role of leaven in the parish, concluded Pastor Trimua.

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## THE VOICE IS GAGGED

Johannesburg (EPS) - The second issue of the new weekly all black ecumenical newspaper in South Africa The Voice has been banned by the government and copies impounded. The newspaper has been declared to be "harmful to the relations between any sector of the inhabitants of the republic" and "prejudicial to the safety of the state, the general welfare or peace and good order".

The editor of the newspaper, Mr Revelation Ntola, revealed that an appeal has been lodged. He was now waiting to hear more details about the appeal.

One of the first two "dummy" runs of the newspaper was also banned.

The Voice was launched as a weekly on 27 April with a lead story which called on the South African government not to lead South Africa into a trap similar to the one which has engulfed Ian Smith in Rhodesia.

In the main editorial of the first edition The Voice says that it is published at a time when the "rapidity at which history-making events are being enacted has perhaps become too much for the human mind to comprehend". The editorial points to the recent liberation wars in Angola and Mozambique, and the recent visits to the sub-continent by Soviet and Cuban leaders. "It is in the light of these events that we believe that the Church as the body of Christ has an onerous duty to discharge at a time when the future of South Africa is looking bleaker and bleaker every day."

Drawing an analogy between the Rhodesian and South African situations, The Voice points out that Mr Smith could have struck a better bargain with the black nationalists several years ago at the time of the talks on the British warships "Tiger" and "Fearless". However, the situation had now changed drastically.

On the banning of the second issue of The Voice Mr Ntola said that his Port Elizabeth agent told him that initially South African Railways (SAR) officials denied any knowledge of a consignment of 19,000 copies of the paper having arrived at the railway depot in the city. The agent said that on 4 May the consignment had been impounded by the SAR authorities, because it had been banned.

Mr Ntola said that all this took place before the newspaper was declared an undesirable publication on 6 May. The decision to ban the issue had apparently been decided on 4 May by a publications committee.

The Johannesburg newspaper The Star, has quoted a railways' spokesman as saying that the confiscation of The Voice by SAR authorities could not have taken place before the announcement of its undesirability was published in the government gazette. The spokesman also denied that the railways police had referred copies of the newspaper to the directorate of publications.

When the newspaper was launched the president of the South African Council of Churches the Rev. John Thorne, expressed the hope that the time would soon come for a straightforward ecumenical newspaper, as opposed to a black ecumenical newspaper such as The Voice, which was now necessary because of the failure of existing newspaper to reflect the black viewpoint.

EPS

NUCLEAR DILEMMA CALLS FOR "DEEPENING  
DIALOGUE", WCC TELLS SCIENTISTS

Salzburg, Austria (EPS) - Opponents and advocates of nuclear energy were told today (9 May) by the World Council of Churches that there are no quick solutions to the dilemma posed by the technological age, that ethical issues are linked to technical ones and cannot be resolved by theologians or others working in isolation from the technical complexities. The World Council urged a continuing and deepening dialogue between scientists of differing views and theologians which would "also get close to people directly involved with particular problems".

Campaigns against the development and use of nuclear energy must accept the fact that "Pandora's box cannot be closed. We cannot live as though nuclear energy had not been discovered," said Dr John M. Francis, a nuclear scientist from the United Kingdom, who presented the World Council of Churches statement "Public Acceptance of Nuclear Power" to this morning's plenary of the International Conference on Nuclear Power and Its Fuel Cycle. The conference, in session here 2-13 May, was organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency and has brought more than 2,000 scientists, engineers, research specialists, and environmentalists from 60 countries to Salzburg.

This morning's plenary session on nuclear power and public opinion was presided over by Dr Paul Abrecht, Director of the World Council of Churches' Department on Church and Society. In his opening remarks Dr Abrecht pointed out that the political and social issues of nuclear power are now so important that there must be increasing opportunity for public participation in determining policies and methods. The scientific community has much to gain and nothing to lose by acknowledging clearly that the development of nuclear energy involves great social and ethical dilemmas, he said. The public should not be encouraged to believe that easy solutions are available. At the same time "we should all acknowledge that there is no risk-free human existence," he declared.

Two Nobel Prize winners preceded Dr Francis. They were Dr H.A. Bethe of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and Dr Hannes Alfvén of the University of Southern California. While Dr Bethe gave an overview of the public debate for nuclear energy in the USA and generally opposed arguments against the use of nuclear energy, Dr Alfvén called for the total phasing out of nuclear energy "as soon as possible", asserting that nuclear technology, in its present form, is obsolete.

Dr Francis emphasized the right of the public to challenge the way nuclear power is developed. Because "in many countries the great mass of the population picks up the bill for nuclear power development". He called for "a proper level of public accountability, not only in financial terms, but more especially in terms of the issues that people feel to be important."

He stressed that not enough efforts are being made by the industry to understand the nuclear objector's standpoint and that publicly expressed anxieties are answered only in academic terms which are not understood by the average layman. This often leads to further misconceptions, thereby increasing instead of allaying public fears. The "sense of alarm is real enough and the nuclear community should not belittle those who succeed in reminding us of our longer term responsibilities", he urged.

Dr Francis acknowledged that the cost of handling sensitive nuclear technologies may include an increasing degree of security and surveillance measures, but challenged the view that containment of risks will inevitably be translated into police state methods.

(more)



Risks have to be held in balance with benefits, and most importantly, people must be consulted at many different levels before we can really talk about public acceptance, he said. Dr Francis warned the nuclear advocates that they will have a harder time than "previous environmental intruders" to win the confidence of local action groups driven by their own natural fears and anxieties. He had referred to recent confrontations in France, Germany, Switzerland and Japan which have indicated the commitment of local action groups against nuclear energy and noted that the US electorate in some states had been consulted in a referendum. "In other countries, governments have changed under circumstances in which nuclear power was a prominent issue," he said.

Dr Francis summarized the World Council's paper in four points:

1. Nuclear energy offers the potential of providing a large part of the world's energy needs, counter-balanced by some exceptional risks. It would be politically naive to think that nuclear energy will or can be abandoned.
2. The maturity of the nuclear energy system is not yet such as to justify large-scale, or unlimited application; the consequences of further large-scale dependence need to be further assessed.
3. The right of access to nuclear technology must be recognized; the nuclear "haves" should not deny the nuclear "have-nots" by any form of exclusive consultation.
3. The issues of access and security involve the collective responsibility of all nations which need to be assessed anew and administered through the International Atomic Energy Agency, with more clearly defined functional objectives geared to the anticipated scale of the task.

Dr Francis said the World Council is calling "for a vigorous exchange of views among people of diverse faiths and ideologies about the relation of ever-increasing production and consumption of energy, and other economic goods, to the good life and the good society. Nuclear energy must not be looked upon as an end in itself, but must serve social justice and quality of life. While affirming the need of many societies for increased energy production, we deny that such energy is either a panacea for contemporary social ills or a substitute for justice. The churches feel a responsibility to take a stand for a new style of life which would emphasize values other than consumption."

EPS

#### DIALOGUE CONFERENCE IN THAILAND

Chiangmai, Thailand (EPS) - Inter-religious dialogue is commended to WCC member churches as one of the ways in which Jesus Christ can be confessed in the world today, says the report of a consultation organized by the Department on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies on the theme "Dialogue in Community". In the same report an assurance is given that Christians will talk as pilgrims and not as manipulators. These conclusions were arrived at by 85 religious historians, theologians, sociologists and ministers representing Protestants, Orthodox and Catholics who met 18-27 April in Chiangmai, an ancient royal city 500 kilometres North of Bangkok in Thailand.

The meeting was intended to be a "pause for reflection" according to Dr Stanley Samartha, who has headed the WCC department since its creation in 1971, but it has resulted in the production of a detailed document which plainly states why Christian churches should enter into dialogue with believers of other world religions.

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At the WCC's Nairobi Assembly in 1975 there was strong criticism of the idea of dialogue. Some saw it as an attempt to amalgamate Christianity with other great religions (Islam, Buddhism, Judaism), an aim which is contrary to Christian missionary responsibility, and therefore a useless obstacle on the road to unity of churches. In addition some churches are doubtful why dialogue is necessary with Muslims and Buddhists when evangelism is more important than ever.

One of the fundamental reasons for discussions with other faiths is that the religions have an important contribution to make in the struggle of humankind for survival. The Chiangmai report emphasizes that Christians have a responsibility to "foster such dialogue in a spirit of reconciliation and hope". This can be done at the family, neighbourhood, village, town, or country level. Christians should "engage in dialogue towards the realization of a wider community in which peace and justice may be more fully realized".

The Chiangmai consultation also concluded that within the human family there is a whole variety of communities influenced and fashioned by different ideologies, religions, traditions and cultures and God does not want them to persist in their antagonism. This is why the "vision of a worldwide community of communities" which should lead neither to a homogeneous unification nor to a totalitarian uniformity, but to a more fraternal existence of living for the other, should henceforth be the stimulus of conversations between Christians and believers of other religions and ideologies.

The fear has been expressed that perhaps dialogue would weaken faith and compromise commitment to Christ. The Chiangmai consultation did not think so. To live in community, Christians must avoid disfiguring the image of neighbours of different faiths and ideologies and not bear false witness. To love others better Christians first need to know them better and begin a relationship with them.

Christians, however, must beware of using this "dialogue in community" as a "secret weapon in the armoury of an aggressive Christian militancy". The meeting soundly rejected this notion of dialogue and adopted it as a means of living out the Christian faith in the service of the community. The conference also declared that through the questions of believers of other religions Christian faith can be deepened. The meeting declared its conviction that "dialogue and the giving of witness do not stand in any contradiction to one another". In other words the Christian faith must be open to others but not imposed on others.

The Chiangmai consultation made clear that there are dangers in this dialogue in community. Therefore Christians have to be careful to interpret the Christian message in a given cultural and religious context, not to "go too far and compromise the authenticity of Christian faith and life" nor to give way to the temptation to "syncretize" Christianity by seeing it as only a variant of some other approach to God.

The meeting also agreed that Christians should affirm the need for a genuine "translation" of their message in every time and place, whether it be a text or an artistic, dramatic or liturgical expression of this message. There is always a risk that the message will be distorted but "the venture of exploratory faith" should be welcomed.

The 10-page report also emphasized that the commitment of Christian churches to the idea of living for others will come about by dialogue. However, within the churches there is still a considerable divergence of views, and the Christian contribution is weakened by such division. The concern for dialogue in community with believers of other religions, it is believed, will stimulate the search for visible unity among Christian churches.



NAMIBIAN CHURCHES WARN "BIG FIVE"  
ABOUT "TURNHALLE SOLUTION"

Windhoek (EPS) - The five western nations of the United Nations Security Council have been warned that an interim government for Namibia as planned by the Turnhalle Conference "should not be established as it will lead to civil unrest in the country".

This warning is given by representatives of several churches in Namibia in a lengthy memorandum presented to representatives of the five nations, on 10 May.

They make it clear that their representations are made in the interests of the whole community, black and white. They say that out of their "deep concern for reconciliation" they have in the past written to the South African prime minister and other government officials.

The church leaders make the following points in seven paragraphs outlining their viewpoints:

- In order for peaceful democratic rule to be attained, a general election should be held in which all parties can participate peacefully.
- A reconciliatory and peaceful atmosphere for such an election would be created if political prisoners were released and exiles were allowed to return.
- Elections should take place under United Nations supervision.
- The aim of the general election should be to establish a constituent assembly which would have the responsibility of ruling the country during the interim period and preparing a constitution for the independence of the country.
- A Turnhalle-inspired government could only maintain power with "the might of the South African forces, which will be an open invitation to the opponents to unseat such a government with the aid of another foreign power".
- The South African Government should not be allowed to implement any resolution on the Turnhalle Conference "as we see this as a continuation of the Bantustan policy of South Africa".
- As a matter of urgency, the people of Namibia, the United Nations and South Africa "must find a way to cooperate in the working out of a plan or procedure for the peaceful and democratic transition of power to the people of Namibia".

While indicating their gratefulness to the five western powers for taking the initiative to bring about change, the churchmen are nevertheless critical of the role of the United Nations, the United States and other western states.

They say: "The UN has passed many good resolutions, but implemented very little. Much hope was earlier placed in the UN, but there is not much left any more, as there seems to be no outcome because of inaction or lack of commitment of western nations."

"America and other western nations are losing the image and prestige they once had as they only try to secure their business interests for a while without any concern for the people of the country. A radical and practical change in the policies of the western nations is needed if they want to get an independent and neutral Namibia, otherwise the country will be lost to those who are interested in helping. Action is needed, not only words."

In their memorandum, the clergymen indicate that they have found that sympathy towards the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) appears to be increasing, as well

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as hatred towards South Africa. The people of the territory show little sympathy towards the Turnhalle decision, they claim.

Examining the alternatives at present before the country, the churchmen say that while they believe a Turnhalle solution would lead to chaos, a situation in which SWAPO forces South Africa out with assistance from other nations, would mean "a bloody war and the country would have to start from nothing, as in Angola".

The churchmen indicate that peaceful transition with direct negotiations and agreement between SWAPO and South Africa along the lines of UN resolution 385, with the points of view of others also being heard, would be the only course of action to bring about a real and lasting solution.

The memorandum is signed by the president of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in South West Africa/Namibia, the Rev. Dr J. Lucas de Vries; Father Provincial H. Hunke, OMI on behalf of the Roman Catholic Bishop in the territory, the Rt. Rev. R. Koppmann; the Rev. Edward S. Morrow, Vicar General of Windhoek on behalf of the exiled Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of Damaraland, the Rt. Rev. Colin Winter, and the Rt. Rev. Dr L. Auala, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavango Church. The five nations which have been participating in the meetings with representatives of the South African Government, of the Turnhalle Conference and other community leaders on the future of Namibia, are the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany, France and Canada.

EPS

#### UNITY: THE TIME FOR DECISION

Lausanne (EPS) - In the search for visible unity of churches today we have to move from planning to action. "Unity is now a question of decision" said Rev. Lukas Vischer at a press conference in Lausanne to introduce the programme for the 50th Anniversary of the Faith and Order Movement. He said this might explain a certain softening in the churches' attitude as "they are afraid of crossing the threshold".

Nevertheless in the meantime concrete steps would be possible, said Dr Vischer, a theologian from Basle who has headed the Secretariat on Faith and Order of the WCC since 1965. Thus, while concluding that "intercommunion between Catholics and Protestants is not yet possible", he thinks that from the Catholic side it would be a good idea "to increase the rare occasions when Catholic and Protestant communities live and work together, and where the common Eucharist becomes an expression of shared commitment". From the Protestant side, "Holy Communion should be celebrated every Sunday", he said.

The visible unity of the churches will not be concentrated so much in ecclesiastical organization as in a common eucharistic celebration. However, Lukas Vischer admitted that just as in 1927 this is not always possible in 1977 either. A study set up 10 years ago on baptism, eucharist and ministry resulted in many common understandings between Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox theologians. But the replies received recently from some 85 churches to this document seems to indicate that many WCC member churches "were at a loss to reply to concrete suggestions".

The celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the first World Conference on Faith and Order which will be held 26-29 May in Lausanne will not, declared Mr Vischer, be a time of looking back but a "call to unity". It is important that a large number of people get involved "to encourage those who are working for unity and have to take important decisions". Mr Vischer concluded: "It is important on this occasion that all groups which have unity as their goal should join together to express this together."

EPS



ARGENTINE GROUP REQUESTS HABEAS  
CORPUS ON 413 MISSING PEOPLE

Geneva (EPS) - Paul Osvaldo Lopez, brother of ecumenical leader Mauricio Lopez, who was kidnapped from his home in Mendoza on 1 January, together with other persons, has presented a petition to the Supreme Court of Justice in Buenos Aires asking that this tribunal place before the judicial and federal authorities an appeal of habeas corpus on behalf of 413 people who have disappeared throughout Argentina.

The petition complains that the efforts already realized have had no effect, and adds that this situation reflects the grave inability of the state to protect the right of life.

According to Rapidas, an ecumenical news service in El Salvador, a rumour has been circulating in evangelical circles in Buenos Aires that Lopez is alive and that his state of health is satisfactory.

Lopez, professor of philosophy and rector of the University of San Luis since the beginning of last year, has held various positions in the world ecumenical movement. Shortly before his kidnapping by nine masked men he was invited to join the faculty of the Evangelical Institute for Higher Theological Studies in Buenos Aires.

EPS

ARCHBISHOP VISITS  
WCC HEADQUARTERS

Geneva (EPS) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Donald Coggan visited the World Council of Churches last week as the final step on his "ecumenical pilgrimage" to Rome, Istanbul and Geneva, meeting respectively, Pope Paul VI, Patriarch Demetrios I, and Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the WCC.

Following talks with World Council leaders the Archbishop who is spiritual head of the 65 million Anglican Communion, held a press conference in the Ecumenical Centre, where he revealed that he had plans to visit Eastern European countries later this year. This revelation came in reply to a question concerning the problem of dissident groups. The Archbishop stated: "One cannot go - as I hope to do later this year - to some of these countries without being made aware of it."

Also in the press conference the Archbishop recapped on the main questions raised during his tour. These included the issue of intercommunion with the Roman Catholic Church and the question of the ordination of women, with Orthodox Church leaders.

In connection with the issue of the ordination of women the Archbishop revealed his own thinking concerning the work of the Holy Spirit. He said "constantly the Holy Spirit is lighting up new areas of truth. This (the ordination of women) may be an illustration of that general principle". He went on to state that there were "the static and dynamic" elements of Christianity. "There has been a once and for all revelation of God in Christ... Certain unrepeatable acts centred in a certain place in a period of history. But then there is the continuing revelation of new truth". The Archbishop quoted as biblical corroboration the passage in the Gospel of John: "I have many things to show you, but you cannot bear them now".

During his visit to the Ecumenical Centre the Archbishop took part in a debate on "spirituality" with the staff of the centre and also conducted a Communion service.

EPS

## HUMAN RIGHTS, CONCILIARITY, ASSEMBLY: MAJOR TASKS FOR CEC

Jassy, Rumania (EPS) - After a joint meeting of its Presidium and Advisory Committee here the Conference of European Churches (CEC) has named its priorities for the next two years as human rights, conciliarity and preparations for its 8th Assembly.

During their four-day meeting the 7-member Presidium and 22-member Advisory Committee were the guests of the Rumanian Orthodox Church. Particular attention was paid to the use being made of the provisions of the Final Act of Helsinki. In preparation for the Belgrade Conference in June CEC has committed itself to examining its possible role in the discussion of human rights concerns in the area of the Helsinki signatory states.

The debates at the WCC's Nairobi Assembly on conciliarity have prompted CEC to hold a consultation from 3-8 October in Sofia on the theme "Rediscovery of the Community of the Churches - Conciliarity: the Way Forward?"

At the Jassy meeting several decisions were taken concerning CEC's 8th Assembly planned to be held in Crete at the invitation of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate from 19 to 27 September 1979. The provisional theme is "Living for the world - in the power of the Holy Spirit". The previous assembly took place in 1974 in Engelberg, Switzerland.

After consideration of a report and a request from the Irish Council of Churches the meeting agreed to renew the mandate of the European Churches' Emergency Fund for Ireland at least until the next Assembly.

Among the meetings approved at Jassy is the European ecumenical encounter organized jointly by the Council of European Roman Catholic Bishops' Conferences and CEC, which will bring together some 75 participants in April 1978 at Chantilly near Paris.

The presence of Rev. Alan Brash, Deputy General Secretary of the World Council of Churches enabled a discussion to be held on the problems connected with the regionalization of ecumenical work.

Two new churches were accepted into membership of CEC bringing the total number to 110 in Eastern and Western Europe. They are the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Baptist Union of Hungary.

EPS

## ARMY ELECTS NEW GENERAL

London (EPS) - The next general of The Salvation Army has been named as Commissioner Arnold Brown. He succeeds General Clarence Wiseman, who retires in July, as the head of the world-wide Army operation.

Commissioner Brown is at present the Army's Territorial Commander for Canada and Bermuda and was from 1969-74 Chief of the Staff, in London. He will be the Army's eleventh General since William Booth founded the organization in 1865.

Commissioner Brown was born in London but emigrated to Canada as a boy. He has spent most of his 42 years as an Army officer in the United States and Canada where he is remembered as having initiated both the "This is my story" radio programmes and the "Living Word" tv series.

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5TH INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN TELEVISION  
WEEK HELD IN SWITZERLAND

Montreux (EPS) - The BBC Anno Domini television programme on South Korea highlighting the situation of the members of the church who live under suspicion and persecution from the state, won one of the main awards at this week's 5th International Christian Television week in Montreux, Switzerland. Produced by Vanya Kewley, the programme was one in a series highlighting church and state confrontation in various countries.

Also receiving an award in the same category was the Yorkshire Television documentary, "The Good, the Bad and the Indifferent". This is the controversial film featuring the eccentricities of the Church of England but also asking some important questions for the church's future. This film also won the "participants" prize - voted on by the 120 participants. The Swiss television film on Dom Helder Camara and his life in Brazil was also awarded a prize in the same "Information" category.

In Category 2, on Worship and Liturgy, the award was won by Radharc Films, Dublin, with their coverage of a charismatic congress held in Dublin last year which featured Cardinal Suenens and the gathering together of charismatic groups from both Northern Ireland and the Republic, entitled "Heirs of the Father".

Given an honorary mention in the Information category was a short film, screened on Yorkshire Television on Easter Sunday and produced by the Churches Television and Radio Centre, Bushey. This is "The Militant Moderate", and features AEW General Secretary John Boyd in his role both as a trade union leader and as a bandsman in the Salvation Army.

The award in Category 3, Teaching, was given to the IKON Television, Hilversum, Netherlands, for a sensitive study of the determination of a young girl accident victim to fight her way back to health.

Thirty-seven films were shown from 15 countries during the week long event.

EPS

BBC RADIO PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS  
WCC'S PCR PROGRAMME

London (EPS) - "You, the Jury", a networked radio series in Britain which invites some 100 people to sit in on a debate and vote as jurors in a court on any given subject was given over recently to a discussion on the proposition "That the World Council of Churches is right to aid liberation movements". Prior to the debate the audience voted 49 to 47 in favour, with four undecided. At the end of the 45 minute programme the voting in support of the WCC was 54 to 41, with five undecided.

The argument for the motion was put by Miss Pauline Webb, a WCC Executive Committee member, Rev. Dr Ernest Payne, a former president of the WCC, and an exiled black Rhodesian, Mr Ignatius Chigwenderi. Opposing were Rev. George Austin, a member of the General Synod of the Church of England, Lord Chalfont, a former government minister, and Richard Feilder, a barrister and speaker on the subject in the General Synod.

The WCC's Programme to Combat Racism has faced considerable opposition from some Press and Church groups in Britain and the opportunity given by the radio station to make out the real case for the programme was much appreciated.

EPS



CEC OPPOSES MISUSE OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS ISSUE AT BELGRADE

Geneva (EPS) - The misuse of human rights as a propaganda weapon at the Helsinki follow-up conference in Belgrade "to bring the other party into political discredit" would be "fatal", according to a declaration issued on 22 May by the Conference of European Churches.

The document was prepared at a recent joint meeting of the Presidium and Advisory Committee of the CEC and has been forwarded to the 110 member churches of the organization in Eastern and Western Europe for their consideration and eventual reference to the appropriate government authorities.

The three parts of the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe "form a whole and are interdependent. Subsequent isolation of one of the parts would endanger the original consensus," the document declares. It points out that in the period following Helsinki, the so-called "Basket Three" has become the subject of argument. "It would be fatal if the Conference in Belgrade were to be used as an occasion for mutual accusations concerning the violation of human rights and ... call in question the function of Principle VII as a stabilizing factor for peace," the CEC warns.

The church leaders urge that ways be found "other than the use of instruments of propaganda, of broaching the subject of shortcomings in the realization of human rights and of working to eliminate them".

The document emphasizes that "the member churches of the CEC recognize their obligation to inform their respective governments in appropriate fashion of shortcomings in the implementation of social or individual rights" and urges "our members not to expect the impossible, but on the other hand not to keep silence when, for some obscure reason, the possible is not achieved".

The document notes "with gratitude that the Final Act of Helsinki has brought about improvements in the relationship between states and in the fields of information and communication, as well as some relaxation as far as the humanitarian aspect is concerned". But while acknowledging this success the CEC document at the same time states that "in quite a few circles there has unfortunately been disappointment" and asks "the Churches to urge the appropriate leaders in their countries to take upon themselves, for the sake of humanity, the onerous task of continuing the work".

By acknowledging that "security policy should never be conducted at the expense of human beings and that state security must serve also the safeguarding of human dignity," the "signatory states have gained an insight of the utmost significance", the document points out.

Noting that the "CEC, as a fellowship of churches, is naturally very much interested in the achievement of freedom of religious belief and conscience," the declaration points out "that religious freedom is differently understood in the individual confessional churches". It counsels against working "with a preconceived idea of religious freedom" but to apply the concept of religious freedom "in the sense in which the confessional churches or the religious communities in the individual countries themselves understand it".

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The document in addition strongly advocates "global, controlled disarmament", expresses concern about the "dangerously increasing" arms trade and technology, and urges that concern about implementation of the Final Act should set the stage for a "continuing reflection and discussion of European problems".

EPS

#### TRI-FAITH TALKS HELD ON PEACE IN INDIAN OCEAN

Tanarive (EPS) - Fifty religious leaders, representing Christians, Muslims and Hindus in Indian Ocean islands met here recently to discuss their role in helping to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. They resolved to ask their governments to include in school and university curricula, programmes designed to educate students on the question of peace.

In support of such programmes, the conference decided to establish an organization which would undertake research on the various religions, assist their constituencies to be better informed about one another and to develop new insights into the present religious situation.

The meeting marked the first time in the region that the three faiths had consulted together. It was attended by delegates from Mauritius, Reunion Island, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Tanzania, and was organized by the churches in Madagascar. Christian representatives consisted of Roman Catholics and Protestants.

Dr Richard Andriamanjato, a pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ and president of the All Africa Conference of Churches, said the conference studied the political situation as well as the strategy and interests of the big powers in the area. Participants noted that the big powers had increased their activities in the Indian Ocean, but since it is an international route for many countries there should be no reason for either the Soviet Union or the Western powers to monopolize it.

"We want to have not a balance of fear but a balance of zero, so that everyone may have the right to freely go through that part of the world without being threatened by some big machineries in the Indian Ocean", Dr Andriamanjato declared.

EPS

#### SWEDISH ECUMENICAL ASSEMBLY TO FEATURE DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Stockholm (EPS) - The 1977 Ecumenical Assembly of the Swedish churches will be held in the town of Västerås next August. It is to reflect a deeper Swedish commitment to the developing nations coupled with a re-examination of the country's life style.

Topics to be discussed in seminars during Ecumenical Development Week, held in conjunction with the Assembly, will include the critical need to cut down the arms race; work towards a new economic order and eliminate pressure tactics designed to increase consumer buying; a careful look at industrial investments in South Africa, and the situation of immigrants in Sweden, now numbering over 600,000 people.

There is increasing clamour in Sweden urging an end of the luxury habits of affluent citizens and a return to a more sensible and "righteous" life style.

EPS



1979 WORLD PEACE RALLY IN INDIA  
TO PLAN PEACE PRESS SERVICE

Londonderry (EPS) - A "World Peace Conference" is to take place in India in 1979, according to Brazilian Archbishop Dom Helder Camara. He made the announcement here at a consultation held under his sponsorship with the support of the Catholic peace movement "Pax Christi" and the ecumenical International Fellowship of Reconciliation. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Londonderry, Dr Edward Daly, hosted the consultation.

The world conference is to consider, among other issues, the formation of an independent global "Peace Press Service". Participants will be asked to develop plans for an intensification of efforts by governments to bring about social change by peaceful means. The United Nations will be invited to support these plans.

Peace without justice is impossible, according to Archbishop Camara. Injustice affects two thirds of the people in the world today, he said, and he urged that "we must be alert" to unjust structures. Dr Adam Curle, peace researcher at the University of Bradford, said the world peace conference in India will be the starting signal for the establishment of a worldwide network of groups, actively engaged in gathering information and data to be used in a concentrated campaign for peace.

EPS

OAU, CHURCHES, UN URGED TO DETER  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN AFRICA

Nairobi (EPS) - The annual meeting of the General Administrative Committee of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa was the scene of strong statements against human rights violations in Africa. Committee members heard the general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, Canon Burgess Carr, call for united efforts to protect men and women against the situation and then adopted a statement asking the World Council of Churches to urge the United Nations to find appropriate deterrents to the "wanton violations of human rights". They requested the Organization of African Unity to take immediate steps to prevent further atrocities.

In his message, Canon Carr likened the situation in some countries to what he called "open cesspools". He cited the "rule of terror" in Uganda, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, and Malawi and criticized one-party systems and military governments in many countries of Africa for denying people the right to challenge or criticize the government. He singled out Gambia, Botswana, Mauritius, Seychelles and Sierra Leone where, he said, the situation was different.

Canon Carr declared that the Church in Africa had a "very special responsibility" to fight human indifference and ignorance in the issue of human rights.

The committee's statement urged concern for and solidarity with the victims of human rights violations, declared the church would "do everything in its power to find ways and means of helping those escaping persecution in Uganda" and announced it will ask the National Christian Council of Kenya (NCCCK) to settle them. The statement expressed sympathy for people suffering under prevailing conditions in Uganda, Ethiopia and elsewhere. It deplored militarism and the arms race in developed countries, noting its adverse effects on developing countries, and urged that the resources now going into the manufacture of war machines and weaponry and the organization of military systems should instead be utilized for improving human conditions.

As the policy-making body of the Presbyterian Church, the committee approved the Rev. Bernard Muindi as the new general secretary upon the retirement in 1979 of the Rev. John Gatu. Mr Muindi is at present deputy general secretary.

EPS

GERMAN CHURCH COUNCIL REFUSES TO  
ENDORSE "BRUESEWITZ CENTRE"

Frankfurt (EPS) - All 15 members of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKiD) have refused to sign an appeal for the establishment of a "Bruesewitz Centre", named for an East German Protestant pastor who died last year of self-inflicted burns while protesting against Communist restrictions on religion.

More than 170 prominent persons from political, economic, scientific, and church circles in West Germany have signed the appeal for the creation of the centre in the Westphalian town of Oeynhausen.

Westphalian Synod President Hans Thimme, in a letter to the centre's coordinating committee, said he had decided not to sign the appeal because he feared that the centre would become involved in current political controversies and acquire a "one-sided character".

Another member of the EKiD Council, Dr Richard von Weizsaeker, while declining to sign the appeal, said he supported "the objectives" of the proposed centre, and would do "all I can to contribute to the attainment of those aims".

According to the appeal, the aims of the foundation for the centre would include: publicity about violations of religious freedom in East Germany; "moral, legal and material" support for East German Christians, and assistance for East German emigrants and refugees. The appeal also states that the Bruesewitz Centre would "give actuality to the injunction of the Basic Law and the Constitutional Tribunal to keep alive in men's hearts the aim of reunification (of the two Germanys)".

The Rev. Oskar Bruesewitz, 47, set himself alight on 18 August, 1976, in the busy market square of the town of Zeitz in Saxony, just outside his church. About 100 persons saw him display posters stating that "Churches Accuse Communists".

He poured gasoline over himself and lit a match. He died in a hospital in Halle, after sustaining burns on 85 per cent of his body.

EPS

WORLD ORTHODOX YOUTH CONSULTATION  
PLANNED NEXT SEPTEMBER IN NICOSIA

Geneva (EPS) - An International Consultation of Orthodox Youth and Students, sponsored by the World Student Christian Federation, will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, 22-28 September, it is announced here.

Final plans for the consultation were developed by the second preparatory committee for the consultation, which met in the Orthodox Monastery of Pendeley, near Athens, recently, through the hospitality of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Greece. The meeting was attended by WSCF Orthodox member movements and guests from related organizations. Issues discussed concerned Orthodox participation in the life of the federation and practical aspects of the consultation.

Delegates from 19 countries as well as representatives of non-Orthodox and ecumenical organizations are expected to attend the consultation which will be held under the blessing of His Beatitude, Archbishop Makarios, with the Church of Cyprus acting as hosts. The agenda will feature issues such as the role of the Bible and patristics in the Orthodoxy, Orthodox spirituality, social responsibility and the prophetic role of the Church, Orthodox understanding of mission, and dialogue with other faiths.

EPS



5TH ASSEMBLY SECTION REPORTS  
BECOME SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

Sydney (EPS) - The six section reports of the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi have become the textbooks for religious instruction at the Brisbane Church of England Grammar School. In this unique educational experiment, the WCC reports are used by Grade 11 and 12 students (ages 15-17) in their four-semester programme.

Religious instruction at the boys' school had been in a state of flux but by 1975 a pattern was emerging when students were asked the topics they wanted to discuss and teachers realized that material from the World Council and the United Nations best answered the need.

The syllabus agreed on for four semesters consists of 1) the nature of man, 2) human rights, 3) development and justice, and 4) modern-day Christianity. Teachers are delighted with the students' response. Already, after only two semesters, there is a "spin-off" with other teachers considering using the material in their courses. The economics teacher has begun to deal with the development question and associated issues of consumerism and morality in his classes.

EPS

NCCCUSA SUPPORTS CARTER'S NUCLEAR  
POLICY, URGES PROTECTION OF DATA

Cincinnati (EPS) - The National Council of Churches of Christ's governing board at its spring meeting here took action aimed at protecting confidential data from grand jury probes, supported ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, urged passage of President Carter's proposed energy legislation, and advocated a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty as well as increased support for the United Nations.

The grand jury should not be used as "an instrument of investigation", the board said in a resolution which calls on churches to provide "moral and material support" for employees who refuse on principle to testify before grand juries. Churches should also not, without consulting lawyers and those affected, release such information as personnel files, correspondence, travel and expense records or names of contributors and members.

In related action, the board authorized the appointment of a special commission to assist the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in efforts to secure the early release of two employees imprisoned for refusing to testify before a New York City grand jury. Restoration of their salaries and payment of their legal expenses are to be sought by the commission.

The board's action was taken in connection with a grand jury investigation of bombings by the Puerto Rican terrorist group FALN in the course of which the jury sought information on the whereabouts of a former member of the Episcopal Church's National Commission on Hispanic Affairs. The imprisoned persons are employees of the Hispanic Commission.

The National Council and its agencies will convene national meetings only in states which have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, another resolution declared. Member churches were asked to take similar action.

President Carter's energy proposals and his decision to "defer indefinitely" commercial plutonium processing received the board's support, although uneasiness was expressed about the effect portions of the plan will have on the poor.

EPS

LISTEN TO VICTIMS, TAKE SIDES IN  
PRESENTING FAITH, UMC URGED

Atlantic City (EPS) - In one of two major addresses during their spring meeting here, members of the Education and Cultivation Division (United Methodist Church) were urged by a former United Presbyterian missionary, the Rev. Frederick Bronkema, "to listen to what leaders of revolutions are trying to tell us".

"The living God is working in and through the victims in our society", Mr Bronkema said. "To be fully human," he added, "is to express anger at wrongs in our world."

In another address, the World Council of Churches' director of communication warned against development of a professionalism in communications that "forgets on whose behalf we communicate".

"Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ is not impartial", asserted Jürgen Hilke. "We must take sides in presenting the Christian faith." Referring to denominational differences around the world, Mr Hilke said, "the witness of the Church lies in how it struggles with its diversity and copes with the conflict it has, and should have, in its own ranks."

He also cautioned against "looking at our differences in terms of the smallest common denominator". This, he said, is one of the major threats to the ecumenical movement and the World Council of Churches, because "what holds the Church together is our common struggle, not our least common denominator".

The World Council official also stressed that a "church in Indianapolis needs to be concerned about, in prayer for and in relationship with a church in Nairobi, Kenya, or somewhere else" because "the coming of the Kingdom is not just to one local church, but ... to the whole world".

EPS

POTTER VISITS CHURCH  
OF NORWAY

Oslo (EPS) - The relationship of the Church of Norway to the various ecumenical bodies and to the World Council of Churches, in particular, was the main topic under discussion when WCC general secretary, Dr Philip Potter met officials from the Church of Norway in Oslo, 14-16 May.

Dr Potter's visit coincided with the publication of the full report from a Bishop's Committee on the ecumenical work and engagement of the Church of Norway and the future of this ecumenical work. The majority finding of the committee recommends that the Church should continue membership with both the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation.

The visit was at the invitation of the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations and Dr Potter met both church officials and members during his stay. In addition to the official discussions there were informal gatherings with students and other young people active in ecumenical work and also a meeting at the home of Oslo Bishop, Dr

(more)



Kaare Stoylen, where Dr Potter raised questions about the Church of Norway, its life and work.

During the discussions some of the critical comments in the report were brought to the General Secretary's attention. The Council on Foreign Relations, the Committee on International Questions a sub-committee under the council, and the Norwegian Commission on Theology, were represented at the meeting. These critical comments centred around the nature and authority of the World Council, the inadequacy of its basis, and the theological implications of some of the programmes. Dr Potter regarded the study as a serious work and remarked that in some parts of the report there is a good appreciation of what the WCC tries to do. Dr Potter also expressed the deep appreciation of the World Council of Churches for the loyal and active service of Bishop Stoylen to the ecumenical movement during the last 25 years, and wished him every blessing as he retires this year as Bishop of Oslo and primate of the Church of Norway.

At a Press Conference held to highlight the General Secretary's visit the majority of questions concerned human rights in Eastern Europe, and were put by representatives of the organization "Mission behind the Iron Curtain" and conservative press people.

However, church journalists present tried to elicit the opinion of the General Secretary on the Church of Norway's report about its relationships with the WCC.

The General Secretary was also granted an audience with the King of Norway, Olav V, and was entertained to lunch by the Minister for Religious Affairs.

EPS

#### SA POLICE MOVE AGAINST BLACK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LEADERS

Johannesburg (EPS) - Two well-known black community leaders in Soweto have been banned by the South African government, which means they are forbidden to continue to work and live in the community in which they have been active, are forced to stay in a remote settlement, and cannot speak in public or write for publication.

The two are Mxolise Mvovo, president of black community programmes, and Dr Mamphele Ramphele, director of the project's clinic. Both are known as strong defenders of the rights of black people. Dr Ramphele is one of two physicians detained until the end of 1976 after viewing the corpse of Mapetla Mohapi, who died in prison in August 1976 under unexplained circumstances. The physician, who is Mrs Ramphele in private life, was taken by the police from the clinic and exiled to a village more than one thousand kilometres away.

The South African Council of Churches has protested against these "unjustified measures".

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# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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No. 15/44th Year

2nd June 1977

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WCC ALARMED AND SADDENED BY  
SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA

Geneva (EPS) - Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, on behalf of the WCC Executive Committee, has written to Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia, expressing alarm and sadness about the present situation in that country.

After recalling his previous correspondence where protests were made about arbitrary arrests, denials of the due process of law, and poor prison conditions, Dr Potter's letter continued:

"Most regrettably, reports emanating from your own Government since that time give evidence that violations of human rights in your country not only continue but have become much more grave and widespread. In the light of this, I have been asked by the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches to address the Ethiopian Government once again, through you, to express our deepest concern about these matters.

"In so doing, I must underscore the fact that the World Council of Churches seeks to be faithful to the Gospel of our Lord, and to His call to defend justice and human dignity. It is bound to no particular ideology. Its member churches are to be found on all continents, and in countries of very different political and economic systems. It is out of our faith and our commitment to uphold the value of human life and the inherent dignity of every person that I write to you now.

"My earlier letter acknowledged the inevitable strains involved in transforming Ethiopian society from a state of feudal inequity and economic under-development to one of economic and social justice for all. But we cannot accept the argument that this inevitably leads to death, terror and the arbitrary administration of justice for the people whose well-being is sought.

"The 'Ethiopian Herald' reported two weeks ago the 'liquidation' of 971 'counter-revolutionaries' in Gondar Province. According to statements of your own Government since October, last year, at least 3,000 'insurgents' have been killed by your forces. Another official report speaks of 300 young persons have been killed on 1 May, in Addis Ababa alone. Men, women and children; peasants, workers, students and members of the military itself have fallen victims. According to other reports we have received these numbers are only indicative, and the loss of life in your country has in fact been much greater.

"We are alarmed and deeply saddened by the information we have received, and therefore appeal most sincerely and urgently to you and your Government to spare no effort to reverse the present violent trend; to ensure the rule of law; to see to it that innocent civilians are not brutally mistreated or 'liquidated' for their suspected political views; and that loyal Ethiopian citizens are not set against one another in the service of narrow political aims.

"Allow me to reiterate the continuing interest of the fellowship of churches joined together in this Council in the present and future welfare of the people of Ethiopia."

RICHNESS OF FAITH EXPRESSED  
IN FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Lausanne (EPS) - The 50th Anniversary celebrations have shown a desire to go beyond the stage of dialogue and "live our unity in shared joy, in intercession and in mutual support," said Rev. Lukas Vischer, director of the Secretariat on Faith and Order of the WCC at the conclusion of the celebration in Lausanne on 29 May.

The celebration was characterised by the richness and multiplicity of expression which mark the churches' search for unity. Those who participated heard addresses from distinguished theologians, joined in prayers and worship, witnessed messages of hope sung and danced by the international group "Gen Verde" of the Focolari movement, enjoyed personal testimonies by committed Christians from Europe, Asia and Africa, and became part of an ecumenical vigil with Brother Roger and a group from the Council of Youth from Taizé.

During the concluding rally where thousands of Protestants, Catholics and Orthodox took part, the general secretary of the World Council of Churches stressed that "our first duty is to overcome our inertia, our apathy, our lack of decisiveness in our work for the unity of the Church". He warned against indifference to this unity which, he accused, is nothing less than "indifference to Christ himself". "Only a passion for the central message of our faith and its proclamation in words and action can make us capable of unity", said Dr Potter.

He continued, "this also means that we are called to break down the barriers of race, sex, wealth and poverty, and political conflict which divide human beings". It is only by pulling together prayerfully and worshipfully in a common study of the Word of God, that "the stimulus and inspiration of our common witness in Christ and his work of reconciliation and healing for all" can be created, said Dr Potter. After 50 years of theological study "many things have not been done, too many things remain to be done. This is the challenge we face today".

During the Whit Sunday worship in Lausanne Cathedral, Rev. Emilio Castro, Director of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the WCC, said that if one day it will be possible to express Christian unity in doctrinal formulae and share the sacraments together today this unity can be expressed in a deep commitment to free humankind from the chains which bind and a desire to live together in harmony.

In the public presentations the German theologian Jürgen Moltmann declared that the time for ecumenical efforts which do not lead to commitment is coming to an end. Emphasis is now on the ecumenism of the local congregation. He added, "Church leaders may be able to serve this, but they cannot hinder it."

Prof. Moltmann continued: "We should say publicly today to Christendom and to the ecclesiastical authorities that there are no doctrinal differences which justify continued separation of the churches" but, on the other hand, without ecumenical fellowship no Christian is in a position to tackle the new tasks facing us in the field of political liberty and social and economic justice. According to Moltmann, one of the urgent needs is for the churches to work towards a "common celebration of the eucharist".

The Greek Orthodox theologian and moderator of the Commission on Faith and Order, professor Nikos Nissiotis, expressed the desire that the churches and their leaders should quickly reach consensus on seeking the help of the Holy Spirit: "the routine of ecclesiastical affairs should not mask the signs of the times" he said. It would not be easy "to take risks" while invoking the Holy Spirit but without his life-giving breath the divisions among the churches cannot be overcome.

(more)



The series was opened by two "ecumenical veterans": Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft, Honorary President of the WCC, and the Dominican Father Yves Congar. Each retraced the difficult but promising stages which marked the ecumenical research by the churches from the first Faith and Order world conference in 1927.

A message from Pope Paul VI to the meeting mentioned that "it is urgent that Christians come to a unanimous agreement on the content of their witness, because their unity is the sign which should encourage faith in the world and their division is a scandal which is a great obstacle to evangelism". Other messages were read from Constantinople and Jerusalem.

During the vigil led by the Council of Youth and attended by more than 3,000 people Brother Roger of the Taizé Community spoke of his hope in youth and their ecumenical vocation which "arouses a new spring in the church". He emphasized that Christianity at war should spend its energies in prayer but noted that there cannot be any valid spiritual experience without solidarity with the poor and oppressed. "Christians must find in the church a communion which encourages them to take risks all through their existence."

EPS

#### INDONESIAN CHURCHES PLAN ECUMENICAL EXCHANGE

Dyana Puri, Bali (EPS) - The newly planned ecumenical exchange programme of the Indonesian Council of Churches will in its first period of two years concentrate on evangelism, lay training, theological education, and university chaplains, it was decided at a consultation convened by the council in a thatched meeting hall on beautiful Kuta Beach.

The consultation was the second in a series called to develop this programme and was attended by 67 Indonesians from churches, institutions, regional councils and the National Council as well as 13 representatives from churches in Australia, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland and the USA.

The exchange programme will seek some 20 people for the first three subjects and six for the last. It is intended that the majority will be Indonesians but foreigners who go to work in a church other than their own will also be included.

The consultation agreed on the term "church sendee" for these fraternal workers in an attempt to avoid some of the connotation of the word "missionary" and to emphasize the concept of being sent. They will be trained in Indonesia for periods of from eight to eighteen months and will then be assigned by the executive committee of the ICC on the basis of requests received from churches and institutions. It is hoped that some of the "sendees" will be from other Asian churches and that Indonesians will be sent to churches in Asia and other parts of the world.

The plan is a step forward in considering Indonesia as one mission field and will fulfil the stated aim of the Indonesian churches to promote and further the unity of the Church in Indonesia. It is also in line with the programme of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches on the Ecumenical Sharing of Personnel.

EPS

NEW ZEALAND CHURCH LEADER  
HITS OUT AT "HITLER" TACTICS

Auckland, New Zealand (EPS) - The President of the New Zealand Methodist Conference the Rev. Peter Stead, sees a comparison with Adolph Hitler in the way NZ Prime Minister Robert Muldoon has responded to a request by the churches for information on government policy toward sporting contacts with South Africa.

The request came from the heads of the Baptist, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in New Zealand through the executive of the National Council of Churches, asking for a clear statement of government policy, and a disavowal from further sporting contacts.

In a report published by his church's newspaper, New Citizen, the Methodist President says that "the surprising thing about the Prime Minister's response to the request for information was that he had not furnished it but instead, like Hitler, had criticized those making the request."

Mr Muldoon's first reaction to the churches' request was to question whether the leaders had their congregations behind them in their request. The Prime Minister said he felt the churches might better have criticized the attitude of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa on apartheid.

In reply, Mr Stead said that "while the church because of its weird theology did support apartheid, it was well known that other churches in South Africa opposed it, and at great cost to many who suffered for their stand." The Methodist leader also pointed to his own Conference's long standing opposition to apartheid and sporting links with the policy.

All we're asking for is a clear statement from the Prime Minister, said Mr Stead. "But we haven't received it. All his response to us does is to try to damage the Church."

EPS

US STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL MEETS  
S. KOREAN CHURCH COUNCIL HEAD

Seoul (EPS) - US Under-Secretary of State Philip C. Habib met here with the Rev. Kim Kwan Suk, general secretary of the National Council of Churches of Korea and leading critic of the South Korean government. Mr Habib was in Seoul to discuss withdrawal of American troops from South Korea with President Park Chung Hee.

Mr Kim told reporters that the US official had inquired after the well-being of political prisoners and had assured him of President Carter's commitment to the cause of human rights throughout the world. Mr Kim explained that the South Korean church council opposes withdrawal of American troops and urged reconsideration of US intentions. He was assured that the US would fulfil its security commitment to South Korea.

Another human rights leader, former President Yun Po Sun said he opposed any withdrawal of American troops until the restoration of democratic government in South Korea. He said he feared a withdrawal would leave the United States with insufficient leverage to push for greater political freedom in the nation.

The meeting of Mr Habib with Mr Kim took place at the presidential palace. Mr Kim was imprisoned in 1975 on charges of misusing aid funds from a German agency, though the agency said his use of the money to assist supporters of rights for workers and others followed its intentions.

EPS



CICARWS REPORTS AID SHIPMENTS  
OF \$41 MILLION IN 1976

Geneva (EPS) - The Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) of the World Council of Churches has reported more than \$40 million worth of material aid shipments by eighteen related agencies to some 120 countries in 1976.

The CICARWS Material Aid Office, which issued the report, gave the actual figure as \$40,638,892 and compared it to \$43.7 million in 1975, a decrease of about nine percent, which was "almost all attributable to drops in food programmes in Brazil and India".

The report pointed out that in addition some mission societies have their own channels for procurement and shipment which are not reported. The total would have to be raised to \$41,227,382 had the data included \$278,320 for Canadian Lutheran World Relief and \$310,170 in Swiss Government commodities contributed through the Lutheran World Federation.

United States Protestant and Orthodox church agencies accounted for 60 percent of the world-wide material aid flow, with agencies of the German Federal Republic accounting for 23 percent.

In type of commodity, the report lists food 25.6 percent; medicines and hospital equipment 24.7 percent; clothing and footwear 20 percent; shelter (tents, blankets, building materials) 9.2 percent. The remaining 20.5 percent is divided among agricultural equipment, tools, seeds, vehicles, and industrial equipment.

EPS

FINNISH, RUSSIAN SALVATION  
DOCTRINES NOT DISSIMILAR

Kiev (EPS) - Russian Orthodox and Finnish Lutheran doctrines on salvation are not as divergent as had been commonly assumed, both have a "firm foundation in the New Testament, and both are characterized by widespread common features," theologians from both churches have concluded.

The salvation discussion was part of talks here by ten-member delegations from the Russian Orthodox Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, headed by Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev and Galicia and Archbishop Martti Simojoki of Turku and Finland.

The delegations agreed, a communiqué declared, that "Christians' participation in developing detente and international cooperation would occur most usefully through the mediation of those national, regional and international Christian organizations whose work is dedicated to peace," such as the World Council of Churches and the Conference of European Churches, to which the Finnish Lutherans and Russian Orthodox both belong.

A discussion of the basis and nature of the Church's social work said "the Church does not and cannot create political programmes. Nor can it determine what kind of social and political order is to obtain in each individual country. However, the Church should enlighten Christians, educate them to ethical awareness and influence their consciences, in order that they might be able actively to use their Christian freedom to struggle against social injustice and build a more just and humane societal system."

The statement also urged that the August 1975 Helsinki Declaration on Security and Cooperation in Europe - which includes provisions on human rights - be implemented in its "entirety", but also said "one was to strive to ensure that pointing to individual parts" of the accords "does not harm detente and cooperation".

EPS

### SIMATUPANG LIFTS UP ROLE OF CHRISTIANS IN DEVELOPMENT

Penang (EPS) - Christians are in a minority in the political, ideological, economic, social, cultural, religious and racial plurality of Asia. Despite this fact, they are participating critically as well as creatively in the development of their countries, declared Dr T.B. Simatupang before the opening session (31 May) of the Christian Conference of Asia's Sixth General Assembly. Dr Simatupang is a CCA president and one of the six presidents of the World Council of Churches.

About 450 delegates, observers and visitors are attending the assembly. They represent 92 non-Roman Catholic churches and national councils of churches in 15 Asian countries as well as Australia and New Zealand. Delegates from churches in Burma and Laos were unable to procure exit permits from their governments and are not here. One of the CCA presidents, Jurgette Honculada, sent a message that she likewise was prevented by the Philippines Government's refusal to issue a travel permit. She is in active opposition to the authoritarian regime of President Marcos.

The issue of dialogue with other Asian religions is expected to become a high point of assembly discussions, according to CCA General Secretary Yap Kim Hao of Malaysia. At the same time dialogue with representatives of socialist ideologies has become particularly pressing because of political changes in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. New ways of communicating the Christian message will be considered as will the question of human rights in Asian countries. Some representatives of action groups may wish to speak in this regard more critically and openly than the respective church leaders in these countries.

Among guests and observers from Europe, America and Africa are Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, and Canon Burgess Carr, general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches.

EPS

### FINNISH LUTHERANS REJECT LEUENBERG AGREEMENT

Turku, Finland (EPS) - The Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland has decided not to accept the Leuenberg Agreement because "sufficient agreement on interpretation has not been achieved".

The Leuenberg Agreement, released by European Lutheran, Reformed and United Church representatives in March 1973, is designed to lead to full fellowship among bodies of the three traditions. According to latest reports, 68 of the 89 Lutheran, Reformed and United churches of East and West Europe have so far accepted the document.

However, the Finnish Synod pledged itself to continuing discussions about "points subject to interpretation". In the Synod's view, preparatory discussions leading to the Agreement failed to study sufficiently the meaning of church fellowship and the effect of such fellowship on Lutheran identity and ecumenical status.

EPS



JUIN 1977

No 17





1967



1968



1965

1970



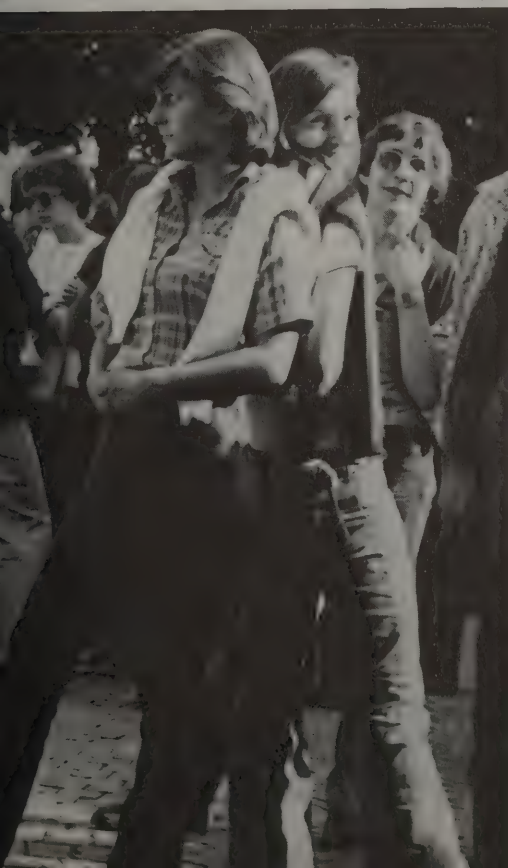




1969



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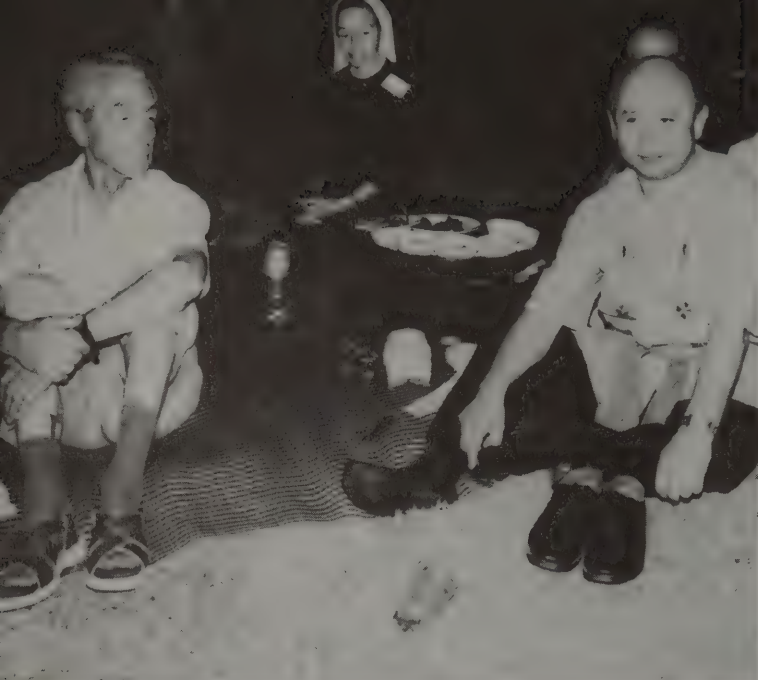


The 50th Anniversary of the first world conference of the Faith and Order movement was held in Lausanne from 26-29 May, 1977. Messages of hope, songs and dances, Christian visitors from Europe, Africa and Asia, an evening vigil, meetings with addresses by noted theologians, worship services according to various rites, as well as fellowship between thousands of Protestants, Catholics and Orthodox believers, made up the whole programme.

- (1964) A Whitsun eucharistic service in Lausanne cathedral.
- (1965) Rev. Emilio Castro, director of the WCC's Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, preached at the cathedral service.
- (1966) The evening vigil was led by a group of young people from Taizé
- (1967) Brother Roger, Prior of Taizé, addresses the vigil participants
- (1968) At the Beaulieu Palace, Lausanne, an international group from
- (1969) the Focolari movement gave witness to their Christian experience in various forms. (See also cover photograph.)
- (1970) Also at the palace, Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the WCC, spoke of the urgent work that must be done toward the unity of the churches.
- (1971) Two of the speakers at the meetings were Prof. Nikos Nissiotis (left), president of the Faith and Order Commission, and Prof. Jürgen Moltmann (right) Protestant theologian from Tübingen (FRG)
- (1972) Having seen the youth at Lausanne, will the churches now pull together to achieve unity?

1966





1973



1974



1976

(1973) Fellowship of many faiths at the recent meeting in Chiangmai, Thailand, of the WCC's Department on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies on the theme "Dialogue in Community" (Story: EPS no. 13).  
 (1974) One session of the recent International Atomic Energy Agency conference in Salzburg was chaired by WCC's Dr Paul Abrecht (centre) (Story: EPS no. 13).  
 (1975) The signing of the contract committing \$2.1 million of funds from the Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina (FRRI) to the building of a canvas shoe factory in the Dong Da district of Hanoi. WCC's Dr C.I. Itty, executive director of the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development (CCPD) is on the right. (Story: EPS no. 10).  
 (1976) Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the WCC, welcoming Cardinal Suenens to the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, where the Cardinal addressed executive staff on the charismatic movement and ecumenism.  
 (1977) Archbishop Donald Coggan (centre) in conversation with WCC Honorary President, Dr Visser 't Hooft and Dr John Mbiti, director of the Bossey Ecumenical Institute during the Archbishop's brief visit to Geneva. (Photos WCC)



1977



**photo oikoumene**

Les photos peuvent être commandées au Conseil œcuménique des Eglises, Section "films et arts visuels", B.P. 66, 1211 Genève, pour le prix de Fr.S. 20 – ou équivalent en monnaie locale.



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## ZOTO LEADER TORTURED IN PHILIPPINES

Geneva (EPS) - Mrs Trinidad Herrera, president of ZOTO (Zone One Tondo Organization), a community organization in Manila's north shore slum area, has lodged a formal complaint against the Philippines Government that she was brutally tortured while under detention.

Mrs Herrera was released from detention mid-May still bearing the marks of electrode burns on her thumbs and elsewhere on her body. She had been interned for several weeks at Camp Crame and Bicutan Rehabilitation Centre.

The example of a case of torture now confronts the Filipino Government after repeated denials of the practice of torture in that country.

Arrested on 25 April in Manila, Mrs Herrera was taken to the Military Interrogation Unit at Camp Crame, where she was held until 2 May without any contact with family or lawyers. It was during this time that she underwent systematic torture as part of her interrogation. On 2 May she was transferred to Bicutan where her lawyer, former Senator Francisco Rodrigo, located her four days later. He described the meeting in his letter of complaint to the government: "Mrs Herrera ... was a pitiful sight when we saw her at the stockade. She was in a state of shock. She was haggard and emaciated; and her eyes were blank and expressionless. It took some time before she showed signs of recognizing me. I found it almost impossible to communicate with her. She barely responded to my greetings and questions. On the few occasions she showed signs of comprehension, I noticed an expression of fear on her face. The few statements she made were evasive and incoherent."

After several interviews, including one through the stockade fence by a neurologist, Mr Rodrigo learned that Mrs Herrera had been brutally tortured with electric shocks applied to both thumbs. When this failed to break her will, she had been stripped and forced to apply an electrode to her own left breast. This was followed by a threat to apply another electrode to her private parts. At this point, she broke down and agreed to "cooperate".

Due to pressure from the Catholic Hierarchy in the Philippines and from the Carter administration in Washington, Mrs Herrera was released on 13 May. She immediately filed a formal complaint against the government for the torture she had suffered, which she testified was a common experience among many others of the detainees she met.

It is significant that Mrs Herrera was released just prior to the sixth convention of ZOTO, when she was reelected president. According to observers the release was because of fear of actions the community might have taken on her behalf.

ZOTO itself has enjoyed cordial relations with the Philippine Ecumenical Committee for Community Organization (PECCO). This committee which has both Catholic and Protestant participation, aided ZOTO in its organization through providing the original community organizers.

Mrs Herrera welcomed Pope Paul VI to Tondo in 1970 and the churches have long been associated with the struggle for land rights which is at the basis of the Tondo people's complaints against the Marcos government. The Tondo foreshoreland is a narrow strip of landfill, of between 110 and 130 hectares, reclaimed by the Philippines government as part of a plan to expand and improve the port facilities of Manila. After the 2nd World War it became one of the largest squatter-settlements in South-East Asia.

(more)



In 1956 the Tondo people were given legal guarantee of title to the land but since the Marcos government came to power in 1965 these rights have been undermined by various development plans.

In February 1975, the government asked Mrs Herrera to serve on its Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Land Problem of Tondo Foreshoreland. However, a few days later she was arrested. Early in 1976, she was asked by the President's wife to join a government delegation to the UN Habitat Conference. Again, a few days later, a warrant was issued for her arrest, after an alliance of slumdwellers had demanded a meeting with Mrs Marcos to discuss slum demolition plans. Mrs Herrera was one of five ZOTO members invited by the World Council of Churches to participate in the non-governmental organizations' Habitat Forum at Vancouver, in June 1976, organized in connection with the UN conference. However none of the five were able to be present. But ZOTO and other organizations sponsored a presentation in Vancouver which sharply contrasted with the official presentation made by Mrs Marcos, who is also governor of Metro Manila. It has been speculated that this most recent arrest of Mrs Herrera may be due to Mrs Marcos' displeasure at having been outmanoeuvred at the Habitat Conference by the people of Tondo.

Worldwide attention has been drawn to Mrs Herrera's arrest and torture, including a recent BBC London documentary programme on torture allegations. Although the government has promised that those responsible will be punished, the people concerned with the case believe that it is important for the government this time to be forced to conduct a full investigation and a public trial by an independent commission, so that the complainant can identify those who tortured her, and so that those who ordered or condoned the torture may be brought to justice.

EPS

#### MORE FUNDS NEEDED FOR RUMANIAN EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION WORK

Geneva (EPS) - A total of US\$ 1,248,749 in money and materials has been sent to Rumania by the World Council of Churches' Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) and its related agencies, since last February's earthquake, an interim report revealed this week.

Initially, CICARWS had appealed last March to member churches and related relief agencies for US\$ 1,500,000, with the proviso that additional funds may be necessary on the part of church-based relief efforts in Rumania.

The interim report notes that assistance through CICARWS was planned "in the area of humanitarian or social assistance," particularly support for the reconstruction of a polyclinic in Rosiorii de Vede, 120 kms south-west of Bucharest, and "in the life and witness of the church" taking the form of support for the reconstruction of theological training institutes, in particular in Bucharest.

Repair work on the Orthodox Seminary, the report says, has required so far a contribution of US\$ 100,000. An estimated US\$ 150,000 will ultimately be required to complete the work, while the faculty structure's rebuilding costs will be US\$ 1,200,000. For this purpose CICARWS has already transferred US\$ 210,000. For the rebuilding of the polyclinic, the WCC inter-church aid commission has made available US\$ 500,000. Final costs are estimated to amount to US\$ 1,500,000. An amount of US\$ 90,000 was forwarded by CICARWS to the Lutheran Church authorities in Rumania. It had been specifically provided by the Lutheran Aid organization of Sweden for the reconstruction of Lutheran churches damaged in the earthquake.

The German aid agency Diakonisches Werk has sent goods and money at a value of US\$337,824

CONTROL OF FUNDS CRITICIZED IN  
SA GOVERNMENT COMMISSION REPORT

Geneva (EPS) - A Commission of enquiry set up by the South African Parliament has recommended in its final report a greater control by the government over donations by organizations, a reinforcement of control of financial resources of organizations declared "affected" and a greater control of funds sent from abroad to cover the costs of the defence of political trials in South Africa.

The report particularly cites an example of an "affected" organization the Christian Institute of South Africa, and recommends that such organizations should have no power to receive funds from movements, which themselves are financed from abroad.

The Christian Institute is one of the organizations declared "affected" by Parliament in 1975, and is prohibited from receiving funds from abroad.

The Commission, presided over by Professor Izak van Rooyen, believes that "affected" organizations should be made entirely responsible for their own finances.

Although it is true that affected organizations may not receive funds from abroad, the Christian Institute has received money from the South African Council of Churches, who have themselves obtained money from abroad.

The Christian Institute should be obliged to provide a certificate that attests that the resources do not come from abroad, added the report. It was also stressed that these organizations "are often so mixed that it is difficult to separate one from the other". However, the South African Council of Church, in a reaction to the report says: "We experience no difficulties in this regard as associations, affiliations and membership are clearly defined and are available for all to inspect. We would have been, and remain happy to explain all relationships."

In a public statement in response to the Commission's report Dr Beyers Naudé, director of the Christian Institute, rejected the conclusions of the commission, and stressed that since the decision of Parliament to declare his organization "affected", he had been obliged to provide an annual check to show that his resources did not come from abroad.

The SACC statement says: "We are deeply concerned at the vague phraseology used, as the impression is created that the SACC has passed large sums of money to the Christian Institute. The fact is that the sum of 2,000 rand (US\$2,100) was given at the time of its declaration as an affected organization, and in terms of the affected organizations act a certificate was issued certifying that it was entirely South African money. It grieves us that this commission did not call for the relevant correspondence which would have borne out these facts."

Continuing its statement the SACC says that "A sorry state of affairs has been reached in the country if South African-based churches and organizations who receive overseas funding for certain aspects of their work may not make donations to the Christian Institute from their South African funds. The Government must be aware that to prohibit such actions would be gross interference in the religious freedom and the right of Christians to support and associate freely with other Christians."

Another aspect of the 334 page report, that for the moment has only been published in Afrikaans, concerns the origin of funds from abroad destined to cover the defence expenses of political trials.

(more)



On this the SACC declares that "a fundamental human right is to be adequately legally represented at a trial. Members of the commission are aware of the large sums of money required for defence in even minor cases and if, therefore, this is to be stopped, how could many people obtain adequate defence? We would like to say that the South African courts have enjoyed a high measure of respect for their judgements and if access to full and proper defence is denied on lack of funds, we believe that a very serious situation will arise, particularly in the black community, which is unable to afford legal expenses at the current rate."

The Commission report believes that the possibility of obtaining these funds from abroad involves the security of the state and creates "a highly undesirable situation". It cites as an example the lengthy trials of members of the black South African Students organization (SASO) that cost around 25,000 rands (US\$28,000) a month.

"The general impression produced by the recommendations is that here is a totalitarian regime extending its controls over yet another aspect of human life. Only an oppressive political system would want to assure their security by such oppressive methods", Dr Naudé stated.

The van Rooyen commission was appointed to investigate the collection of funds and other financial contributions given to South African organizations and social work institutions. Its investigation has been wider than just on religious or political organizations. The report presented recently to Parliament has not been debated up to the present time.

EPS

#### NEW US WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES APPOINTMENT

New York (EPS) - Ms Ruth Prudente has been appointed as resources development officer for the US Conference for the World Council of Churches based in New York. She takes up her appointment on 1 August.

Ms Prudente's two-year appointment has been made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment to be used as "seed money" for the development of a new financial strategy and programming in the USA on behalf of the total work of the World Council of Churches.

Ruth Prudente was born in Santa Monica, California, and was educated at the University of California in Berkeley and St Francis Hospital School of Nursing in San Francisco. For a time she was director of nursing services at Broadway Community Hospital in Los Angeles. She also holds a certificate in social leadership from the University of the Philippines Institute of Social Work and Community Development.

Ms Prudente has been the executive director of the United Methodist Social Center in Manila, and played an active role in the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, the Association of Social Workers and the Mental Health Association.

Since 1973 she has served as an executive secretary of the Ecumenical and Interreligious concerns Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, and is on the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches.

EPS

SPANISH EVANGELICAL CHURCH APPEALS  
FOR FULL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Alicante (Spain) - The 54th Synod of the Spanish Evangelical Church, meeting here at the end of May, called for complete religious freedom in the country and an end to the state confession of Roman Catholicism.

For the first time in forty years the church also sent a public message, addressing this to the King. In this letter it expressed the revulsion and indignation of the church at the recent happenings in the Basque country. Aligning themselves with those who are oppressed the Synod asked the King to implement the rule of justice and liberty everywhere. The letter expresses the fear that if the necessary measures are not taken the situation will be aggravated and generate more violence. As a first step for a true reconciliation the Synod urged the King to apply an immediate and total amnesty.

A statement at the end of the Synod said that the Spanish Evangelical Church, in raising its voice at this time has done so in faithfulness to Christ and his gospel.

The Synod debated the theme "Justice, liberty and reconciliation as the demands of the gospel". They stated that they were examining this theme as a permanent expression of the gospel and not as words seeking for votes.

Part of the discussion centred around the question of civil discrimination. The Synod stated that they believed that the profession of faith - or the profession of atheism - should never be the motive for civil discrimination. They lament the fact that in Spain there is not an authentic religious liberty and denounce the law that regulates the religious right of liberty. They request that all citizens, believers or not, be equal under the law as much in their individual rights as in their community rights. The statement goes on: "We believe, moreover, that the state confession will always be an impediment to an authentic religious liberty and we believe that the moment has come, when for the benefit of the whole community and the Roman Catholic Church, this confession be abolished".

On the business side of the Synod meeting, Pastor Daniel Vidal was elected president of the church, Pastor Benito Corvillón, vice-president, and Pastor Enrique Capó, first secretary.

EPS

LWF RECEIVES PERMISSION TO SEND  
5,000 GERMAN BIBLES TO USSR

Moscow (EPS) - The Lutheran World Federation has received permission from the Soviet Council for Religious Affairs to import 5,000 German bibles for Lutheran congregations in the Soviet Union, according to Dr Paul Hansen, Europe secretary in the LWF Department for Church Cooperation. Dr Hansen passed through Moscow on his way to visit German-speaking congregations in Siberia and the Far Eastern Soviet republics of Kirgisia and Tadjikistan, particular those in the towns of Novosibirsk, Frunze and Duntjambe.

The Danish theologian had received permission from the Soviet authorities for the first time last October to contact German-speaking Lutheran congregations in Siberia and the Asian republics. He reported then of meeting many "active Christian communities" among people of German origin in Kazakstan and elsewhere. They had lived originally in areas along the Volga River and west of it, but were resettled during the second world war on Stalin's orders when the German armed forces penetrated deep into Russia. (See EPS No. 33/76).

EPS



MASSIVE ANTI-TORTURE CAMPAIGN  
LAUNCHED BY NAMIBIA CHURCHES

Windhoek (EPS) - Warning against the "horrifying proportions" of the use of torture, particularly in northern Namibia, church leaders in that country have issued a joint declaration, advising victims on ways by which they can combat torture with the help of "people of conscience here in Namibia and throughout the world".

The eight-page document is signed by Bishop L. Auala, Evangelical Lutheran Ovambokavango Church; President J.L. de Vries, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia; Roman Catholic Bishop R. Koppmann, Windhoek; and the Rev. E. Morrow, Anglican Diocese of Damaraland.

More and more people are being beaten and tortured while in custody, and torture now seems to be standard practice in the interrogation of detainees, the joint declaration points out. Stating that they are aware of numerous methods of torture, the churchmen list as most common: beating with fists or rifle butts, being held in uncomfortable and painful positions for long periods, no sleep, hung up by arms sometimes with weight added, electric shocks, burning with cigarettes, solitary confinement, and being held incommunicado for months.

"We would certainly be failing in our public duty if we were to remain silent about this deplorable state of affairs; at the same time our revulsion must find expression in practical actions," the document points out. It then notes that the churches had protested to the government a number of times on the issue of torture since January 1963, including during meetings in 1971 and 1973 with Prime Minister B.J. Vorster. Mr Vorster however rejected these representations. More recently a request for a judicial investigation was ignored.

The only conclusion that can be reached in these circumstances, the document declares, is that those in authority have given approval to the use of these brutal methods. This applies equally to the "homeland" governments and their tribal police forces.

The declaration expresses conviction that the laws of a country should be devised in such a way that torture becomes impossible. In contrast with this principle, the document points out that South African security laws promote the practice of torture on the pretext of saving "our society from being overrun by lawless people". But a society consenting to torture condones the most horrible form of brutality and adopts values and practices "at least as evil as those it claims to be combatting," the church leaders declare.

They advise anyone tortured to get immediately a medical certificate of his physical condition, see a lawyer together with witnesses if any and sue the responsible minister of government for damages. Should legal fees be prohibitive, the victim should consult his church for help. Victims are urged to resist signing untrue statements while in custody; if unable to endure they should bring the matter to the court's attention which may help prevent someone else from being convicted on false evidence.

The declaration contains repeated suggestions that victims contact their pastor or priest or any trusted church worker for help in whatever situation may arise in connection with their ordeal. The fellowship of the church was urged to remember in prayers those in prison. The church leaders further encouraged every priest or pastor to keep an up-to-date list of all persons in his area who are being detained. At the end of the month, a minister or priest should send a copy of his list to his church leader. The lists of all the churches will be combined into one prayer list which will be distributed throughout Namibia and among church leaders throughout the world.

The declaration concludes: "Let us be courageous and persistent in our efforts to bring the practice of torture to an end. Let us not fear to follow the example of our Lord, who was prepared to suffer for the salvation of others."

ARCHBISHOP SARKISSIAN CONSECRATED  
HEAD OF ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Antelias, Lebanon (EPS) - Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, was consecrated here on Pentecost Sunday (29 May) as Coadjutor-Catholicus of the Armenian Church under the jurisdiction of the See of Cilicia. The ceremonies took place in the Cathedral of St. Gregory the Illuminator.

At 45, the new catholicus is the youngest clergyman to assume the position as head of the church in recent times. He was elected a week ago by an overwhelming 155 votes of the 166 clergy and lay delegates in the National Assembly. Representatives came from dioceses in the United States, Lebanon, Iran, Greece, Cyprus and Kuwait to attend the supreme legislative body of the Armenian Church whose headquarters have been located in Antelias since 1930.

Archbishop Sarkissian was elected from a list of five candidates, all prominent leaders of the Armenian Church throughout the world.

His Holiness Khoren I Paroyan, 62, who was elected in 1963, requested the election of a coadjutor-catholicus to assume the responsibilities which he had been prevented from carrying out due to a serious heart ailment. According to the canons of the Armenian Church, a catholicus, the supreme spiritual head of the church is elected for life, or, as in the present case, until he is unable to perform all the duties of his office. The coadjutor-catholicus has full catholicossal authority vested in him.

Historically, the See of Cilicia has had jurisdiction over Armenian dioceses in Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus. Members of the Armenian Church elsewhere who consider the See of Etchmiadzin in Soviet Armenia too dominated by the Communist authorities also accept Cilician jurisdiction. The Armenian Church is a portion of Oriental Orthodoxy, which became separated from the rest of Christianity following the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD, which defined the divine and human natures in the one person Jesus Christ.

The new catholicus headed the Eastern Prelacy of the US and Canada since 1973 and previously was prelate of the Julfa-Isfahan diocese in Iran. A Lebanese citizen, he was born in Kessab, an Armenian village in northern Syria.

In addition to his close association with the Catholicosate of Antelias where he served for many years as chancellor and as dean of its Theological Seminary, Coadjutor-Catholicus Karekin II is a well known and active leader in the ecumenical movement.

At the Fourth Assembly of the World Council of Churches (Uppsala 1968), he was elected to the Central and Executive Committees, and at the Fifth Assembly in Nairobi two years ago he became vice-moderator of the WCC's Central Committee.

EPS

APARTHEID VICTIMS AIDED  
BY SWEDISH LUTHERANS

Stockholm (EPS) - Swedish Lutheran Aid has decided to set aside another US\$100,000 for legal assistance to people in South Africa who suffer from racial discrimination laws. Last year, the organization sent US\$375,000 to various Christian organizations in South Africa to support the legal defense costs of black South Africans who had become victims of the apartheid laws. About 80 per cent of the cases tried in court have resulted in the release of the accused. Part of the money is also used for the support of the families of the persons imprisoned.

EPS



POLITICAL UNREST SURROUNDS  
THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Athens (EPS) - Recent events in Istanbul have given rise to fears that the existence of the Ecumenical Patriarchate might be at stake. According to information circulating here in informed circles and which has been reported in the Greek press, demonstrations hostile towards the ecumenical Patriarchate took place on 24 May in Istanbul.

In the recent excitement of the election campaign the "Istanbul student union" staged a demonstration in front of the Patriarchate, where students and Muslim priests brandished banners reading "Out with the patriarchate" and "Close the nest of treason to Turkey".

During recent weeks numerous slogans have appeared all over the country claiming that "Turkey is Muslim". In that context a member of the Demirel government has asked that Saint Sophia be converted into a mosque. In 1453 this cathedral ceased to be used for worship and in 1935 became a museum.

According to observers here this is part of a campaign launched against the Patriarchate by the "Islamic national salvation party" of Necmettin Erbakan, and beyond the Patriarchate to the Greek orthodox minority of Turkey. In the election on 5 June this party experienced a heavy setback. In Athens it is believed that after these elections the principle of the secular State, laid down by the founder of the Republic, Kemal Atatürk, remains firmly implanted in the mind of the population.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has existed in Constantinople - "the new Rome" - since the Vth century. Since the foundation of the Turkish Republic and the Lausanne Conference of 1923 it has been allowed to maintain its quarters at Phanar, one of the oldest parts of Istanbul. Since the death of Athenagoras in 1972 it has been headed by Patriarch Demetrios I. The Ecumenical Patriarch is recognized as the first among equals by all Orthodox churches. Yet according to the Lausanne Conference the Turkish authorities consider him only as religious head of the Greek Orthodox minority in Turkey.

In the present tense situation between Greece and Turkey, mainly because of Cyprus and the rights on the Aegean Sea, observers agree that the closing of the Patriarchate could become a political token of a conflict of which it has never been a part.

EPS

SET ASIDE HINDRANCES TO EUCHARISTIC  
FELLOWSHIP, FAITH AND ORDER CONFERENCE URGES

Geneva (EPS) - A global statement of doctrine is not as "essential" for Christian unity as "sufficient consensus" in the churches "to set aside the hindrances to eucharistic fellowship," in the opinion of 40 experts who met 30 May to 5 June at Crêt-Bénard near Lausanne under the auspices of the World Council of Churches' Faith and Order Department.

While theological in depth discussions continue to be necessary, emphasis of the work toward unity should be on encouraging the possibilities of common baptismal practices and eucharist, they said.

Participants analyzed responses from more than 90 WCC member and some 30 non-member churches and confessional groups, including 17 Roman Catholic theological faculties, to three agreed statements on "Baptism, the Eucharist and a Mutually Recognized Ministry". These had been worked out after many years of ecumenical study by the Commission on Faith and Order. The churches were asked to "indicate the ways in which they are prepared to contribute to the common advance towards unity".

(more)

The conclusion reached by participants is that the desired consensus can have "profoundly practical consequences". To the congregation in tribulation and the solitary believer - in a prison, a shanty town, or during a famine - a "sufficient consensus" can give assurance that "we are in one fellowship, around one table, with one Lord, and strengthen our witness and our struggle for a community of solidarity and justice".

The conferees suggested that member churches already implicitly recognizing each other's baptism, officially express this recognition; and that they encourage congregations to renew their "baptismal catechesis".

Church members should be encouraged to participate in the eucharists of churches other than their own, and congregations should share in frequent celebrations of the Lord's supper. Church members and ordained ministers were urged to attend each other's ordination ceremonies.

World confessional families were encouraged to participate in discussions of the statements on baptism, eucharist and ministry. The Continuation Committee of the Consultation of United Churches (Toronto, 1975) should initiate a programme of theological reflection and exchange on the experience of mutual recognition of ministries within the various united churches, it was suggested.

Recommendations to the Faith and Order Commission advocated the convening of a small consultation with the Baptists, dialogue with Pentecostal churches, a study programme on the mutual sharing of ministries among theological graduates, a study and dialogue on the ordination of women and the development of resource material for local study of baptism, eucharist and ministry.

EPS

#### POTTER CITES VIETNAM EXPERIENCE AS INSPIRATION FOR OTHERS

Penang (EPS) - The experience of the Vietnamese people has inspired all who fight for their liberation, according to Dr Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, in an address before the Sixth General Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia.

The victory of the Vietnamese ended thirty years of the most destructive war the world had ever seen. "The most dramatic manifestation of the hope of people in the midst of the suffering of our time was given by the Vietnamese people," he said. Dr Potter was one of the four speakers on the assembly theme "Jesus Christ in Asian Suffering and Hope".

In one of its first legislative actions, the assembly elected a 23-year-old theology student, Ms Nimalka Fernando, one of its four presidents after stormy debate on the floor had challenged the absence of women and youth from the slate proposed by the steering committee. Ms Fernando is associate general secretary of the Student Christian Movement of Sri Lanka.

Other presidents elected are Anglican Archbishop Keith Rayner of Australia, Dr John Nakajima, general secretary of the National Council of Churches of Japan, and Dr Koson Srisong, general secretary of the Church of Thailand. Dr Yap Kim Hao of Malaysia, a Methodist, was confirmed as CCA general secretary, while S.M. Chowdhury, a Baptist of Bangladesh, was elected treasurer.

The Christian Conference of Asia was formed with an initial membership of 48 national Christian councils and churches in 1959 at Prapat, Indonesia. Membership now is 104, including eight new churches admitted during this assembly. CCA represents Christian churches from Pakistan to Japan, and from Korea to New Zealand.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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CHRISTIAN PRIORITIES IN ASIA  
SET BY CCA ASSEMBLY

Penang, Malaysia (EPS) - The fight for respect of human rights in Asia, dialogue with other religions and ideologies and a greater participation in human development at every level of society are some of the priorities set by the 6th Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) for the next four years. Meeting from 31 May to 8 June in Penang in Malaysia, the delegates from the 104 member churches and member Christian Councils of CCA met under the theme "Jesus Christ in Asian Suffering and Hope".

One of the four speakers on the assembly theme was Dr Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches. Looking at the theme from a biblical perspective Dr Potter affirmed that "God in Christ is known by what he does and his is a work of liberation from suffering". Asian suffering has international roots he declared. "The realisation that we share a common fate is a call to act together to alleviate human suffering and to promote a just society."

The Japanese theologian John Nakajima emphasized that Christians in Asia, being only a minority, need to become "the salt of the earth" to fulfil their tasks. Nakajima is one of the four new Presidents of the CCA elected in Penang.

The voice of women and youth has often been heard at this assembly. There has been particular criticism of tourism-oriented prostitution, particularly when it has government support.

At Penang it was decided that "Asia Day", to be celebrated by the Christian churches in Asia next February, will be devoted to women workers, one of the most oppressed and exploited groups in Asia. The women and youth present at the Assembly have also asked to be given decision-making jobs in the CCA and in their own churches.

Western cultural heritage was another point debated at length. General Secretary Yap Kim Hao, who was appointed for another term, said in his closing press conference: "We have to impose on ourselves a moratorium on the Western heritage." Professor Masao Takenaka from Japan suggested that the symbol of Jesus Christ as "the bread of life" should be replaced in Asia by "God is rice".

Newly elected presidents of CCA are the Most Rev. Keith Rayner, Anglican Archbishop of Adelaide; the Rev. John Nakajima, general secretary of the National Christian Council of Japan; Dr Koson Srisang, general secretary of the Church of Christ in Thailand and Mrs Nimalka Fernando, associate general secretary of the Student Christian Movement in Sri Lanka. Honorary Treasurer is Dr Samson Chowdhury, director of the Christian Hospital in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

The next CCA assembly will take place in 1981.

EPS



LWF ASSEMBLY KEYNOTES RACISM,  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Dar es Salaam (EPS) - Strong platforms against apartheid, international economic injustice and exploitation promise to be the major concerns of the Sixth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation meeting here 13-26 June. The keynote address and the opening discussions are beginning to focus on human rights violations and what can be done to prevent them.

LWF president Mikko Juva, chancellor of the University of Helsinki, said in the keynote address that all racial discrimination in general and the apartheid policy of South Africa in particular must be condemned without ambiguity.

"We would not begin our deliberations properly if in our very first session we would not voice our anguish for the suffering of our brothers and sisters, voice our distress that we have been able to help them so little, and voice our promise of solidarity to stand at their side in the struggle for a better future," urged the chancellor.

On a call for a new international economic order, Dr Juva said the most troubling thing is how overwhelmingly difficult it is to effect even small changes in the trend of development, so that the gulf between the standard of living of the north and the south would decrease and not further increase, so that the rich would no longer get richer and the poor poorer.

Dr Juva said that the optimism which prevailed at the 1970 assembly in Evian, France, has waned with regard to the welfare of the Third World. The use of the oil weapon as an "agent of change" has forced the industrial consumer nations to make certain concessions, and he warned that "this pattern will be followed again in other instances". He added that in a world with limited resources "it is not possible to rectify the economic imbalance without lowering the standard of living of the wealthy nations".

Attending the colourful opening ceremony at the Nkrumah Hall of the University of Dar es Salaam on Monday, 13 June, were Tanzanian President Nyerere, Cardinal Laurian Rugambwa of the Roman Catholic Church, Archbishop John Sepeku of the Anglican Church, Bishop Kisanji of the Moravian Church and Alhaji Salehe Masasi, Chairman of the Muslim Council of Tanzania.

Welcoming delegates, Bishop S. Kolowa, head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, said his country was a leader in the liberation of Africa and "very much in defence of human rights on the foundations of the United Nations. For this reason there are many refugees here from countries where there is political turmoil due to oppressive governments."

At the assembly's first press conference, Dr Juva acknowledged that the high aims set by the Federation at the Evian assembly (1970) had not be realized. But he saw a much greater awareness in the churches concerning international economic justice, and the evils of racism.

Of 260 delegates expected here, 205 attended opening sessions of the two-week assembly. Two days after the opening of the Assembly two official delegates still had not obtained their entry visas. They are Rev. Ji Won Sang, President of the Lutheran Church in South Korea and Peter Chou, Vice-President of the Lutheran Church in Taiwan.

President Nyerere entertained delegates at a lawn buffet reception on the first night of the assembly. Entertainment was provided by the Tanzanian Navy Band and traditional tribal dancers.

CALLS FOR PEACE LAUNCHED BY  
INTERRELIGIOUS CONFERENCE

Moscow (EPS) - A call for political, economic and military détente and a reduction in arms was made here by the 663 participants at an interreligious conference hosted by the Russian Orthodox Church. The conference, which sought "lasting peace, disarmament and just relations among nations", was held from 6-10 June in Moscow at the invitation of Patriarch Pimen. Delegates representing all the major world religions adopted a call to "religious workers and believers of the world" as well as an appeal to governments of all nations.

In their appeal to governments, delegates welcomed the idea of calling a World Conference on Disarmament, with all nations represented. They also asked for the dismantling of foreign bases, respect for non-aggression pacts, the setting up of nuclear free zones, the continuation of the SALT negotiations and the Vienna talks on the reduction of armaments in Central Europe.

The meeting deplored the fact that "while two-thirds of humanity goes to bed hungry, the nations of the world spend more than \$300 billion a year on war and armaments". Delegates saw an urgent need for non-governmental organizations to influence public opinion for total disarmament.

In his message to the Conference, Patriarch Pimen declared that "a lasting peace, disarmament and just relations among nations are the clearest reflection of the needs of our times and are the goal we all aim for". Metropolitan Juvenaly of the Moscow Patriarchate suggested that the years remaining before the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ be declared "years of peace" to be marked by labour for the strengthening of peace between nations.

Among the many political and religious leaders present at the Conference were representatives of the Conference of European Churches, the All Africa Conference of Churches and the World Council of Churches.

EPS

ORTHODOX OPPOSE ALL HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS, DECLARES METROPOLITAN

Geneva (EPS) - Orthodox Christians oppose all human rights violations wherever they take place, said Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon in a telegram of condolence sent on 11 June to the Turkish Foreign Minister, following the murder in Rome of the Turkish Ambassador to the Holy See.

Paying tribute to "the man and the diplomat" Karima Taha, the Dean of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate based in Istanbul, publicly condemned this murder. "As Christian Orthodox we are opposed to all human rights violations (cf Helsinki Agreement), all expressions of religious fanaticism and all similar crimes to humanity whether committed by states, organizations or individuals", he declared. He called on "men of state and of the church to unite to prevent similar criminal acts".

Metropolitan Meliton was on his way to Bucharest to attend the enthronement of the new spiritual head of the Rumanian Orthodox Church, when he learned in Geneva of the murder of the Turkish Ambassador. The Metropolitan is second only to the Patriarch in the hierarchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

EPS



DON'T IDEALIZE UNLICENSED  
CHRISTIANS, LWF TOLD

Dar es Salaam (EPS) - "Idealizing" unrecognized religious groups in the Soviet Union would be unjust to the many faithful Christians who want to practise their belief within the laws of the State, in the view of Dr Paul Hansen of the Lutheran World Federation's Department of Church Cooperation.

Dr Hansen reported at the LWF's Sixth Assembly on a two-week 6,000-mile trip to Soviet Asia and Siberia, from which he has just returned.

He said the German-speaking Lutheran congregations he visited had seen very difficult times since the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Soviet Union was disbanded in the 1930's in the wake of Stalin's persecutions and particularly after their compulsory resettlement at the beginning of the Second World War.

They appreciate today's improved situation all the more because it allows them to maintain a form of church life, however limited it may be. One church member told the LWF executive "We were widely dispersed, but God's blessings remained with us."

Mr Hansen's journey took him from Moscow to Novosibirsk, the largest city in Siberia. From there he went to Frunze, capital of the Kirgisian Soviet Republic, and Dunchanbe, capital of Tadjikistan. He participated in services of the Russian Orthodox Church and of the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptists. He visited worship centres of other confessions and Muslim mosques.

Dr Hansen was the first official guest the German-speaking Lutheran communities had ever received from abroad, and he was invited to preach wherever he went. Church members were deeply impressed, he said, to learn that despite their dispersion and isolation, churches from other countries knew about them and remembered them in their prayers. Dr Hansen's first trip to Kazakstan last October was widely reported in the Western press. He said that each of the three congregations he visited on this trip had from 200 to 300 adult members. But the number of participants in worship life is much higher. In many localities smaller groups had already begun meeting for prayers in private homes in the late 1950's.

There are certainly a number of Lutherans who oppose the licensing requirement and separate from the congregation after the official registration. On the other hand, there are those Christians who only after the congregation has been licensed decide to become openly practising church members.

Mr Hansen was impressed by the worship life of Russian Orthodox congregations and those belonging to the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptists. They occupy relatively large buildings. The Russian Orthodox cathedral in Novosibirsk has acquired adjacent property to enlarge the buildings in response to the growing membership. Baptists in Novosibirsk and Dunshanbe have purchased houses in which large prayer halls, seating 500-800 people, are being built. Baptists in Frunze dedicated in 1975 a church which has 1,000-person capacity.

Russian Orthodox churches hold daily services, Protestants mostly three a week. Services are attended to overflowing. Pentecost was celebrated by between 6,000 to 8,000 believers in the Orthodox cathedral in Novosibirsk.

Mr Hansen emphasized that his optimistic appraisal of developments in the Soviet Union is not based on the consequences of the Helsinki Conference, but that a revival of church life has come about in slow but constant changes over a number of years.

SODEPAX TO REVIEW CHRISTIAN  
SOCIAL THOUGHT

Geneva (EPS) - A special meeting to study new trends in Christian social thought has been jointly arranged by departments of the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church. SODEPAX, the joint, ecumenical Committee on Society, Development and Peace of the WCC and the Holy See, will sponsor a gathering of 40 theologians and social ethicists, 1-6 July, at Rocca di Papa, just east of Rome. "Developments in the Social Thinking of the Churches and Their Theological Implications" is the formal title.

The participants, chosen by the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church from all parts of the world, will review trends in Christian social thought since the Geneva Conference of the WCC on Church and Society (1966) and the papal encyclical Populorum Progressio (1967).

Also on the agenda is an examination of new possibilities for ecumenical collaboration in the framework of the current SODEPAX Programme, entitled "In Search of a New Society: Christian Participation in the Building of New Relations Among Peoples".

EPS

METROPOLITAN JUSTIN ELECTED  
RUMANIAN PATRIARCH

Bucharest (EPS) - New head of Rumania's 14 million member Orthodox Church is Metropolitan Justin of Moldavia. Elected Patriarch 12 June the 67-year-old bishop succeeds Patriarch Justinian who died on 26 March, as leader of the second largest Orthodox church in the world.

The church's new spiritual head was unanimously elected by the 94 members of the electoral college which includes members of the Holy Synod, priests and lay delegates, as well as three representatives from the civil authorities.

As Metropolitan of Moldavia (North East Rumania) and Archbishop of Iasi Justin Moisescu played a leading role in the renewal of parish and monastic life. He encouraged and directed the restoration of old Moldavian monasteries and a resurgence of their liturgical and spiritual life.

The new Patriarch has been a member of the Central Committee of the WCC since his church became a member in 1961. He is one of the seven presidents of the Conference of European Churches and leads the Rumanian delegation to the Pan-Orthodox Commission preparing the Pan-Orthodox Council. In addition he is an elected member of the Rumanian Parliament and Assembly.

Born the son of a schoolmaster Justin Moisescu did his theological studies from 1922 to 1930 in the seminary at Muscel. He obtained his degree from the University of Athens in 1934 followed by a doctorate a few years later.

Before taking up his pastoral duties he had a brilliant university career as a professor of New Testament studies in Warsaw (1938-39) and then at Sucevea in Rumania and finally at Bucharest where he taught at the faculty of theology from 1946-56. He was named Metropolitan of Transylvania in 1956 and less than a year later became the spiritual head of the Metropolia of Moldavia.

His enthronement as fourth Patriarch of the Rumanian Orthodox Church (patriarchal status was only conferred on the church in 1925 by the Ecumenical Patriarch in Constantinople) will take place on 19 June in Bucharest.

EPS



## REFUGEE SERVICE OPTIONS INCREASINGLY PAINFUL, CHURCHES TOLD

Geneva (EPS) - The ecumenical movement's first fully international consultation on the refugee problem is meeting here this week. Thirty-two participants from 24 countries are working to update and redefine the role of churches, church agencies and the World Council of Churches' Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS), which is sponsoring the meeting.

Under the chairmanship of George Cram, from the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, Anglican Church of Canada, working groups are searching for new ecumenical responses to the needs of refugees in areas of special tension and conflict, and reviewing ongoing programmes for training, education and resettlement.

Refugee service was one of the first and most intensive post-war activities of the ecumenical movement, but "over the years we have come to recognize that all our work with refugees has political implications and requires political options", Dwain Epps of the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs told delegates in an opening address. "As our field of concern has shifted away from a primary involvement with European refugees to a worldwide engagement, our work has become increasingly complex. The options required for the churches, whose resources are finite, become increasingly painful."

Mr Epps listed the following dilemmas that confront church projects for refugees: How do we face the difficulties of helping refugees from rightist or leftist regimes? How far should we be involved in helping people leave their own home countries? How do we approach the problem of asylum? What are the rights of refugees in the host country?

The impossibility of defining the extent of the refugee problem worldwide was highlighted in an address by Gilbert Jaeger, of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), on the opening day of the consultation. "We don't know how many refugees there are," said Mr Jaeger, "partly because no universally agreed definition exists of who is a refugee, partly because governments are unwilling to admit to the presence of refugees on their territories, partly because refugees themselves are reluctant for various reasons to be recognized as such, partly because refugees simply do not know the ropes needed to apply for and obtain refugee status."

While the refugees recognized under the mandates of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) and UNHCR total about two and a half million, voluntary agencies - including the WCC - "take a much more flexible line when extending their services to refugees and are guided by the extent of needs rather than by definition. It is therefore likely that the number of refugees in this wider sense will be closer to the four million mark," said Mr Jaeger.

EPS

## EAST GERMAN CHURCHES AGREE ON EUCHARIST

East Berlin (EPS) - The right to celebrate the eucharist in each other's churches is now possible for ordained pastors of the eight member churches of the Federation of Protestant Churches in the German Democratic Republic.

Although 71 of the 89 Reformed Churches in Europe have already signed the Leuenberg Agreement, the Protestant Churches in the GDR are the first to take this step. This Agreement, drawn up in 1973 by representatives of Protestant Churches in East and West Europe, aims at full communion of preaching and ministry between Lutheran, Reformed and Protestant churches in Europe.

Among the churches which have recently signed the Agreement is the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Swiss Cantons of Bern, Fribourg and Neuchatel.

EPS

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL BY SOUTH KOREANS  
FOR CONTINUED AMERICAN PRESENCE

Seoul, Korea (EPS) - An appeal for support "to the Church the world over and friendly nations" for the maintenance of American forces in South Korea was made on 27 May in Seoul. The appeal was initiated by 18 Christian leaders calling themselves the Korea Christian Ad Hoc Policy Committee.

In a declaration adopted at the end of a prayer meeting attended by 10,000 in the centre of Seoul this committee "in the name of the whole Church and its 5 million members" declared that the continued presence of American troops in South Korea "is the most appropriate measure to hold in check the evil ambition for invasion of the northern Communists".

The troops' withdrawal would mean "inviting a new war in this land" said the statement claiming that "because of the Communists the church in North Korea was wiped out of existence". It added that "the prevention of Communist aggression in this land is a task which protects the church and is the only method for the protection of the faith".

Under-Secretary of State Philip C. Habib recently met with President Park Chung Hee to discuss with him the possible withdrawal of American troops from South Korea (see EPS 15/77).

EPS

AOYAMA U. WILL NOT RESCIND ORDER  
CLOSING THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Tokyo (EPS) - Despite an appeal signed by over 4,000 pastors, seminary professors and church members, the decision by the Board of Trustees on 30 March to close the Department of Theology at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo will not be rescinded.

The order was reportedly based on University Chancellor Kinjiro Oki's disappointment that at the time of the student protests in the late 60's and early 70's, some of the theology professors, chaplains and other teachers did not follow his hard line. The theology teachers asserted that they merely responded to the issues raised by the students, but the chancellor viewed this as their tacit approval of violence which could contribute to the ultimate downfall of the school.

Theological education at Aoyama Gakuin dates from the time of the earliest Methodist mission in Japan in 1876. Since 1949 the Department of Theology has been one of seven seminaries of the United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan) and one of four granting graduate degrees. Among the school's best known former professors are Old Testament scholar Jun'ichi Asano and the late church historian Ken Ishiwara, who was a member of the Japan Academy.

The case has received wide attention in the Japanese press and is referred to as an example of the tension existing in Japanese church and school circles. Among factors leading up to the decision not to continue the department was the attempt of several former Tokyo Union Seminary students to transfer to Aoyama Gakuin six years ago. They had objected to Tokyo Union calling in police riot squads during a student protest.

While the Aoyama faculty accepted three of the transfer applicants, the chancellor vetoed their admission and was supported by the Trustees. Thereupon the university president resigned in protest. When two of the students took legal action, the court ruled against them. As a result of the proceedings, the dean of the College of Literature, a member of the theology faculty, was forced to resign. He was followed by three other members of the faculty.

EPS





# Ecumenical Press Service

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LWF ASSEMBLY TAKES DECISIVE ACTION  
ON RACISM, HUMAN RIGHTS

Dar es Salaam (EPS) - Most dramatic action taken by the Sixth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, in session here 13-26 June, was a call on white South African churches to reject apartheid as a violation of their faith. The assembly asked member churches to recognize that the situation in Southern Africa "constitutes a status confessionis" and that "on the basis of faith and in order to manifest the unity of the church, churches should publicly and unequivocally reject the existing apartheid system".

The term "status confessionis" implies that opposition to the present situation in South Africa is a matter which strikes at the heart of Lutheran teaching and that rejection of apartheid is part of the doctrine.

The statement came out of the longest debate of the two-week meeting and was accepted with an overwhelming majority. It acknowledged that "under normal circumstances Christians may have different opinions in political questions", but stressed that "political and social systems might become perverted and oppressive so that to reject them and to work for change is consistent with the confession".

The Assembly also dealt with a problem which consistently faces South African churches attempting to proclaim the full Gospel, namely the defence of apartheid by mainly Dutch Reformed Churches, using biblical arguments. The Assembly called for clarification of the fellowship of all Christians "on the basis of Lutheran theological thinking including the practical consequences for a public witness of the church". This clarification must "reject any biblical argumentation in support of apartheid which still prevails somewhat, whether expressly stated or not."

All the delegates from South Africa supported the resolution, with only one delegate from Namibia voting against. An earlier statement on human rights, which had sharply protested the "continuing threat to human dignity and the manifold violations of human rights by the white minority in South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe" had been adopted unanimously and virtually without debate.

The earlier statement declared that delegates were aware of "the fact that a number of industrial nations through their manifold links with South Africa are closely involved with the present system and, therefore, bear significant co-responsibility".

Discussions prior to adoption of the statement suggested that human rights violations in Latin America, particularly in Chile, also be mentioned. Such an alteration was not made, however, after it was noted that the statement recognizes violations persisting on all continents and that concentrating the statement on Africa was the result of the location of the present Assembly. On other African situations, the statement said the assembly had been confronted with "frightening news also from some independent African states" and that it shared "the shock of world opinion about the boundless atrocities in Uganda".

In its global references, the statement called attention to the Helsinki Final Act on Security and Cooperation in Europe and its human rights provisions and noted that among the signatory states of the Helsinki agreement "the basic rights of citizens are respected to varying degrees". In this connection "consideration for those concerned prevents us in many cases from naming individual instances and permanent violations of human rights", the statement said.

Speaking to LWF member churches, the statement called for their self-examination of human rights situations and asked that a report of their findings be sent to the LWF in Geneva within one year.

(more)



Christian unity in diversity instead of uniformity was stressed in a report on ecumenical relations, which the Assembly adopted. It emphasized the element of reconciliation, adding that "unity and reconciliation do not mean mere coexistence", but also "essential elements as the recognition of baptism, the mutual recognition of church ministries and a binding common purpose of witness and service". The Assembly requested the LWF to undertake a study of the concept of "reconciled diversity" in its relationship to the concept of "conciliar diversity", as developed at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi, 1975.

On a possible Roman Catholic recognition of the Lutheran Augsburg Confession, the Assembly expressed hope that this recognition would open the way toward a forum of fellowship between the Catholic and Lutheran churches. This would not abandon their particularity and identity, but "further the development toward a full ecclesial communion as sister churches".

The "re-evangelization of nominal Christians" was the subject of a statement which called on member churches to intensify evangelization efforts and at the same time asked the LWF to serve as a "collective servant" of all the churches by developing a global mission strategy which would involve action groups, other churches, mission agencies and other interested parties.

The Assembly called for a new emphasis on the role of women in the church and recommended the establishment of a full time Women's Desk in the LWF's Department of Studies. Delegates at the same time supported a recommendation for adding a Youth Desk and forming a Youth Advisory Committee.

Bishop Josiah M. Kibira of Bukoba, in northwestern Tanzania near the Uganda border, became the sixth president of the 30-year-old federation, winning by 130-117 votes over the other candidate, Bishop W. Habelgaarn of the Moravian Church of South Africa. Well known in ecumenical circles, Bishop Kibira is a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee. He succeeds Dr Mikko Juva, chancellor of the University of Helsinki, as head of the world organization.

Post-assembly sessions of the new executive committee elected three vice-presidents and a treasurer to serve as officers of the LWF together with President Kibira. The vice-presidents are Dr David Preus, president of the American Lutheran Church; Bishop Johannes Hanselmann of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bavaria; and Dr Andrew Hsiao of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. The new treasurer is Carl-Gustav von Ehrenheim, a Swedish layman. It was decided that the three vice-presidents all would have equal status. In the past there have been first, second and third vice-presidents.

The executive committee also reelected Dr Carl H. Mau, Jr., as general secretary of the federation. All will serve until the next assembly, probably to be held in six or seven years.

EPS

#### CATHOLIC AND ARMENIAN ORTHODOX DIALOGUE TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY

Washington, DC (EPS) - Theological teams representing the Armenian Orthodox Church in the USA and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops will launch an ecumenical dialogue next February, eight years after such consultations were suggested by Armenian Patriarch Vazgen I and Pope Paul in Rome.

EPS

DIRECTION SET FOR CRITICAL STUDY  
OF TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Geneva (EPS) - Transnational corporations (TNC's) are the targets of a major new World Council of Churches programme, proposed by an international consultation of 46 theologians, church administrators and financiers, economists, top-ranking TNC executives and trade union officials meeting here 13-18 June. It was the first time that trade union officials had been formally included in a WCC consultation.

The programme proposal, which culminates a six-month long series of ecumenical meetings on TNC's, will be presented to the WCC Central Committee in August for approval. It describes the corporations as "the largest concentration of economic power in human history" and calls for an initial five-year strategy to deal critically with them. This will combine a detailed study of TNC power, and action against its abuses through public hearings, "responsible use of invested church funds" and practical support for groups already struggling with oppressive corporations.

The boldly worded proposals emerged at the end of the week-long meeting that heard arguments from representatives of Nestlé Alimentana, Unilever and Philips as well as a major presentation by Dr Geoffrey Chandler, director of Shell International. Other key speakers were Professor Constantino Vaitsos of the University of Paris, and Mr Dan Gallin, general secretary of the International Union of Food and Allied Workers.

The discussions that followed noted the positive roles claimed by TNC's as suppliers and transfer agents of employment, capital and skills, but the consultations' final report calls for a critical stance against TNC's worldwide.

The corporations are held responsible for "underdevelopment and stagnation of Third World economies", exploiting natural resources and cheap labour, amassing vast wealth and power without adequate control and responsibility, and applying capital intensive technology for large profits, against the best interests of the host country.

"It is almost, if not entirely, impossible for TNC's to conserve or promote social justice", said one work group report. "The main pressures on TNC's are for survival and growth and even when they have opportunities to...support social justice, they are unable by their nature to respond."

But the report recognizes that to simply attack TNC's is not enough. Any criticism must be set in the context of the search for a just, participatory and sustainable society, a theme running through all World Council programmes. The group studying the self-understanding of TNC's saw the short-term question before the consultation, not as how to dismantle TNC's, but rather to ask whether "there are better ways of organizing the earth's resources and human skills".

Among the most distinctive sections of the report is a theological reflection on why the churches should be involved in the issue at all. It arose from discussions that followed a major presentation by Metropolitan Paulos Gregorios and a panel debate moderated by Indian economics professor Samuel Parmar.

The biblical arguments take account of responsible economic activity as fulfilling God's creation, cite the Church's prophetic task of discerning oppressive structures and apply the values of the Kingdom of God to social structures. "The policies of production, pricing and distribution are intimately linked to the liberation of which Jesus spoke", says the final statement.

(more)



However the report calls the churches not only to act against the TNC's abuse of power, but also to repent of their own involvements in such abuses: "We in the churches stand in judgement for our past and present captivity to unjust economic structures and systems..."

In taking action, churches are warned against the dangers of paternalism and urged to include the experience of the "excluded, exploited and oppressed".

EPS

#### WCC SUPPORTS WALDHEIM'S EFFORTS FOR MISSING PERSONS IN CHILE

Geneva (EPS) - A cable of "deep appreciation" for the UN's efforts on behalf of missing persons in Chile has been sent to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim by the director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches.

Under date of 27 June, Leopoldo Nilus assured Kurt Waldheim of continued WCC support in further efforts to obtain full information about the many persons who have disappeared in Chile. He lifted up particularly Mr Waldheim's role "regarding the hunger strike on the premises of the Economic Commission of Latin America (ECLA) in Santiago", held by the relatives of some of the missing from 14-23 June.

More than a thousand persons are reliably reported to have disappeared in Chile since the present regime came into power by a coup d'état in 1973. Hundreds of their cases have been documented and brought to the attention of the Chilean authorities over the last year through legal proceedings initiated by the Vicaria de la Solidaridad of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Santiago.

Twenty-six relatives (24 women and two men) of some of the missing began a hunger strike in the Santiago offices of ECLA on 14 June on behalf of all who had disappeared. According to a spokesman of the UN Office of Public Information in New York, Secretary General Waldheim has since been informed by the Chilean Government that it was "prepared to give information on the whereabouts of relatives of the group of 26 and also declared that it will not apply sanctions against members of the group". The group of 26 then decided to terminate the hunger strike on 23 June, and expressed its thanks to the UN, its secretary general and to the executive secretary of ECLA for their "serene and humanitarian attitude". The Santiago group had received support from groups in North America and Europe during the strike.

A representative of the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs has made statements to the UN Commission on Human Rights on the issue of missing persons in Chile as early as 1975 and has supported legal efforts by church bodies in Chile to determine their whereabouts. The Fifth Assembly of the WCC, in a major public statement on human rights in Latin America, protested the systematic increase of human rights violations on that continent, and singled out in particular the disappearance of persons and unexplained deaths following arbitrary and/or unjustified detention without proper warrants from competent courts. "Having considered this anguishing reality", the WCC stated, "we respectfully but energetically exhort the governments of Latin America to comply with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and "call upon the churches in Latin America to educate...its members in order that they may be led to comprehend their responsibility as a community of faith in Christ with respect to the Declaration (leading to) the implementation of concrete programme in defence of those rights by the churches and their members".

EPS

REFUGEE RIGHTS IGNORED  
WARNS WCC CONSULTATION

Geneva (EPS) - Alarm that the full protection and assistance promised to refugees under United Nations conventions is not being provided was expressed by the 43 participants from 26 countries who met in Geneva 13-17 June at an international consultation on refugees sponsored by the WCC's Commission on Inter-church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS).

"Even in those countries who domestic legislation enshrines the Convention, the application of the law in practice is too often rigid, bureaucratic and legalistic, defeating the intent if not the letter of the law," said the delegates in their final statement. "All of this takes place even within the narrow restrictive UN Refugee definition - which, in today's complex world, fails to recognize many of the tragic refugee situations where we have been called to work. We must do better..."

Switzerland, as the home of several international organizations distinguished by their refugee service and the host of this meeting, was specially mentioned by the consultation. Delegates urged the Swiss churches "to take all the steps they can to ensure that Switzerland does not tarnish its reputation by allowing its tradition to become only a tradition of the past.

"At the same time, we would urge all our member churches to take all possible measures to convince their governments to respect the UN Convention on Refugees, and to respond to refugee situations with compassion in ways which go beyond the narrow bonds of definitions and protocols."

Most of the consultation's work was done in three working groups which concentrated on the ecumenical response in areas of special tension, the search for solutions, and training and education.

Several common themes emerged from the discussions. A major concern was the need to deal with the events that create refugees, such as human rights violations. Special concern emerged for those whose refugee status is unrecognized and who therefore go unsupported. Education was described as a "basic right for refugees" and special sensitivity in helping refugees achieve that right in their adopted culture was urged.

Cooperation between refugee-serving agencies was stressed, and where governmental agencies are involved, defined more closely. The right to confidentiality of individual dossiers must be reserved. New emphasis was placed on helping people to stay in their own countries, as far as possible. Delegates agreed that the churches define refugees more broadly than intergovernmental and governmental agencies which are often restricted by legal agreements. Strong appeals for action were made to churches in countries which expel refugees, or refuse to allow repatriation of citizens wanting to return. According to one group report, eventual return to home "is a major preoccupation for most refugees" and counsellors must take this into consideration.

CICARWS was urged to link its policy on refugees more closely to other areas of WCC concern. The current study on militarism was one area with implications for refugee policy. CICARWS was also asked to provide research and background data on refugee problems, and to encourage staff training programmes for those involved in refugee work. Three regional meetings are already planned, in Europe, Latin America and Africa. A major consultation (arranged by the All Africa Conference of Churches), involving governments, refugees and refugee workers is scheduled for March 1978. The theme will be "The granting of asylum is a peaceful and humanitarian act".

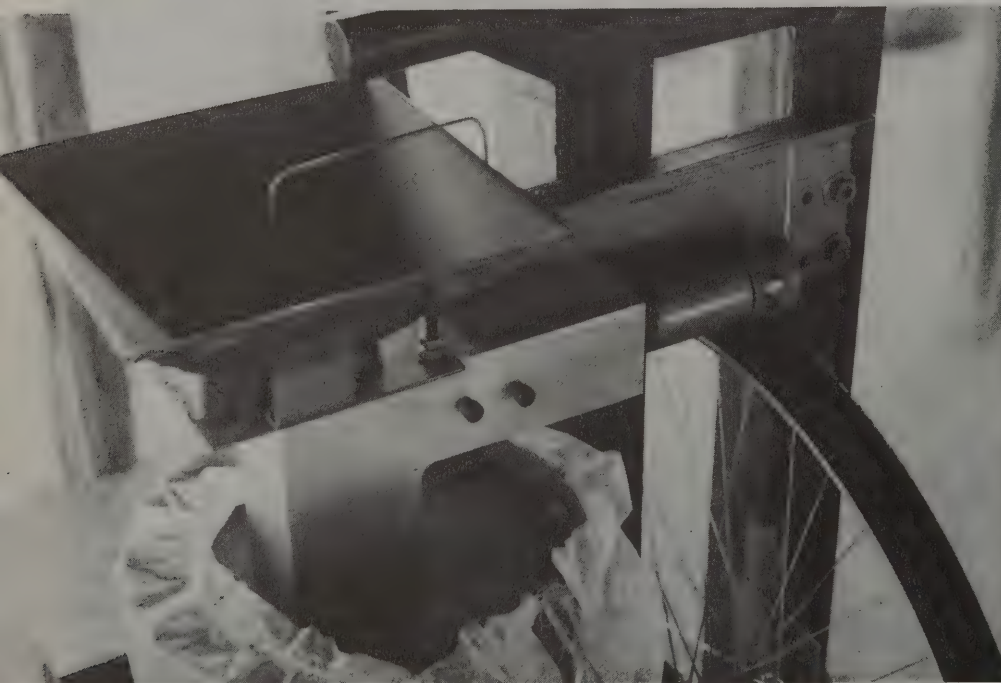
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1983



1984



1985



1986



1987

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1988



1989



1990

## APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

The Karen centre near Nairobi, Kenya, has organized an exhibition and permanent experiments in appropriate technology. Sometimes borrowed from other continents and then adapted to local needs, this low cost technology can be used and easily maintained by the rural population.

- (1983) Windmill with many applications
- (1984) Mill for grinding millet
- (1985) Manioc drier
- (1986) Solar energy stove capable of reaching 600°C
- (1987) Small forge near Lake Victoria making
- (1989) charcoal stoves.
- (1988) Granary protected from rats
- (1990) Solar water heater fed by rainwater
- (1991) So-called Chinese disc pump with a large capacity.

Photos: WCC

1991







1980



1978

1979



- BUCHAREST** On 19 June 1977 the new Patriarch of the Rumanian Orthodox Church, His Beatitude Justin, was enthroned in Bucharest. Many well-known figures from the religious world were present; among them were
- (1978) Rev. Alan Brash (left) deputy general secretary of the World Council of Churches
  - (1979) Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev (USSR); in the background is Cardinal Jan Willebrands, President of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.
  - (1980) The theological seminary in Bucharest; a pressing task for the new Patriarch is the reconstruction of religious buildings destroyed in the March earthquake.

- DAR ES SALAAM** The VIth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation was held in June in the Tanzanian capital. Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere (centre) at the opening session.
- (1981)
  - (1982) Tanzanian bishop Josiah Kibira (second from left) was elected President of the LWF. On the left is the outgoing President M. Juva and at the extreme left is LWF general secretary, Dr Carl Mau.

Photos: WCC



1981



1982



# EPS

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WCC REPORT EXPOSES RHODESIAN ARMY  
IMPERSONATION OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Geneva (EPS) - Allegations that the murder of civilians in Rhodesia, including missionaries, is perpetrated by government scouts who pass themselves off as guerrillas to discredit the freedom movement are supported by army deserters in the July-August issue of "One World", the monthly World Council of Churches publication.

An expose by WCC staff writers in the issue now being distributed to subscribers reports on a series of "exhaustive" interviews with Rhodesian Army deserters who provide a detailed picture of the "counter-insurgency role" of the Selous Scouts, an elite commando-style unit of the Rhodesian Army.

"Because all the blame for civilian killings to date has been levelled at the freedom fighters," the expose says, the implications of this new information "are enormous for church bodies helping to shape international understanding of the Rhodesian war". The WCC itself has given non-military aid to all three Zimbabwe liberation movements and therefore "has a special interest in discovering the true nature of the conflict," the report points out.

According to the deserters' testimonies, "One World" says, the Selous Scouts are largely black soldiers "who dress, arm and operate exactly as guerrilla units of the liberation movements" even to the point that white soldiers, who usually command the units, disguise themselves as blacks. Among them are mercenaries who have been identified as coming from Britain, Australia, USA, Germany, France and in larger numbers from South Africa.

The WCC expose describes how the scouts, passing themselves off as guerrillas, trap villagers into betraying their sympathies, kill them when complicity with real freedom fighters is suspected, or arrange for their imprisonment in "containment camps" when too many are involved.

For the villagers "it becomes impossible to define who are scouts and who are guerrillas," one headman is quoted as saying. The scouts operate "in strict seclusion, even from other army units" and their area of operation is "frozen" with other troops being moved out beforehand or kept stationary in one position. The troops move in when the scouts have finished their work, "dig a couple of holes and throw the bodies in, pour some gasoline on and burn them, then cover them up. That is the normal practice," the WCC staff writers were told.

Usually a few survivors are left to spread the belief that the village was attacked by real freedom fighters, whereas when "real guerrillas kill they kill everyone", the deserters declared.

While it is impossible to estimate how many civilian murders can be attributed to the Selous Scouts, one ex-soldier told the WCC writing team that the killing of missionaries is a recent phenomenon. He said: "The Smith Government knows the guerrillas are getting money from the churches so they strike at the missions so people will go against the guerrillas."

But many African congregations are convinced the killing of missionaries is the work of the Selous Scouts, according to "Observer" correspondent David Martin who is also quoted in the "One World" expose.

EPS



## AUSTRALIA'S NEW UNITING CHURCH TAKES FIRST STEPS TO JOIN ECUMENICAL BODIES

Sydney (EPS) - Some 200 delegates from the Congregational Union of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia, together with hundreds more observers and visitors, were present in Sydney, 22 June, 1977 for the establishment of the Uniting Church in Australia.

After the presidents of the three churches had each read formal statements on behalf of their constituencies agreeing to the union, the chairman of the Joint Constitution Council, the Rt Rev. L. Farquhar Gunn, declared the Uniting Church inaugurated. The enthusiasm with which the assembly sang the doxology immediately afterwards more than made up for the somewhat dry and legally correct terminology used in the declaration. First items of business for the new Church included the recognition of the United Church of North Australia, the appointment of Dr J. Davis McCaughey as president and the Rev. Winston D. O'Reilly as general secretary, and the creation of seven synods with the appointment of their moderators and secretaries.

Apart from lengthy domestic and legal debates and decisions, the assembly unanimously applied for the Uniting Church's membership in the World Council of Churches, the Australian Council of Churches, the Christian Conference of Asia, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the World Methodist Council. The assembly also made an unprecedented statement, recognizing as "churches from which Ministers of the Word may be received on transfer subject to their acceptance of the polity and discipline of the (Uniting) Church:

1. Congregational churches in membership with the WARC;
2. Methodist churches in membership with the WMC;
3. Presbyterian churches in membership with the WARC;
4. United churches and other churches which at the time of the inauguration of the Church were recognized by any of the uniting churches."

The celebratory aspects of the inaugural assembly took the form of a festive worship event in Sydney's townhall, at which the new officers were installed and president McCaughey preached. The service which was attended by over 2,500 people, was broadcast on ABC television. On the second day of the assembly, a service of Holy Communion was celebrated at which Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the WCC was the preacher. Dr Potter was also the main speaker at a public meeting later in the week.

Guests from all over the world were present at the inauguration. They included the general secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia, Dr Yap Kim Hao. The WARC was represented by the Rev. Fred Kaan, who gave the final address at the closing assembly of the Congregational Union of Australia.

An estimated 30% of the Presbyterian Church voted against union. Their legal action against union was defeated in August 1976 after 18 months of costly court procedures. Continuing Presbyterians met in assembly at the same time as the inaugural assembly of the Uniting Church.

A new hymnbook, prepared by a committee of the Anglican, Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches, is due out early September. It will be the hymnbook commonly used in the Uniting Church. The book contains a wide selection of hymns from all traditions. One sixth of the book consists of material written after 1946.

Membership in the Uniting Church is approximately 200,000 with 2,400 ministers. There are some 1,000 parishes, many of which are made up of several congregations.

ECUMENICAL JOURNAL MAKES  
NEW START IN BRAZIL

Sao Paulo (EPS) - After three years of silence, the magazine "Cristianismo" has reappeared to stimulate the life of church people in Brazil. With the aim of encouraging spiritual renewal and promoting ecumenism, "Cristianismo" was relaunched this week under the direction of the Rev. Samuel Barboza.

The relaunch was described by the editorial team as "a venture of faith" as there is no financial backing behind the publication except the good will of a small number of concerned ministers of various church persuasions.

"Cristianismo" was founded in 1943 and continued through to April 1974. The new issue is planned to appear six times a year.

For some time there has been a growing desire in Brazil for a journal aimed at church people and church life but which is not an official journal of one particular denomination. Criticism of church publications centres around a form of self-censorship which is observed. "Cristianismo" promises to be a medium for freedom of expression for all church ministers and laymen. In addition it is claimed that there is no journal committed to open theological renewal as is the new "Cristianismo".

The old journal's stated aims were "to renew spiritual life, promote social justice, provide Bible studies and seek unity through the Bible". A more compact aim has surfaced as inspiring the new team: "Critical reflection on the mission of the Church in society today".

In their ecumenical aim "Cristianismo's" editors believe that the journal can also contribute to stimulating and encouraging the powerful renewal group at work within the Brazilian Roman Catholic Church today.

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ARNOLD ELECTED PRESIDENT OF  
YMCA WORLD ALLIANCE

Buenos Aires (EPS) - The Seventh World Council of YMCAs, meeting here 29 June to 6 July, elected Oberkirchenrat Walter Arnold (47) of Germany. as new president of the World Alliance of YMCAs. At the same time Hector Caselli (52) of Uruguay was elected secretary general, succeeding Fredrik Franklin (64) who had served in this post for the past 15 years.

Mr Arnold, chief counsellor to the Bishop of the Protestant Church of Wurttemberg on ecumenical questions and mission, was national general secretary of the German YMCA from 1964 to 1973 and a member of the World Alliance executive and president's committees from 1973. In his inauguration speech under the theme of the council "Enlisted in Reconciliation" he challenged 604 delegates from 62 national YMCA movements to be centred in the Christian faith and to reach out for world-wide development and human rights, witnessing to a new life style. Mr Arnold succeeds K.M. Philip (65) of India, who had taken over the presidency in 1974 after the execution of Endalkachew Makonnen in Ethiopia.

The newly elected secretary general, Hector Caselli, will take up his responsibilities in October, 1977. After studies in Montevideo and New York, Mr Caselli joined the Latin American Confederation of YMCAs whose general secretary he has been since 1970. From 1965 to 1970 he worked as youth and student secretary of the World Alliance of YMCAs in Geneva, Switzerland. In a programme address he pledged to continue the work of the Alliance in the spirit of his predecessor and at the same time to intensify the international, ecumenical and inter-racial character of the YMCA movement.

EPS



EUROPEAN CHURCHES URGE EQUAL  
TUITION FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

Geneva (EPS) - The officers of the European Churches' Committee on Migrant Workers have urged the Council of Ministers of the European Community to ensure that all migrant children in their countries receive equal educational facilities. The committee, which is composed of fifteen Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant churches, have commended measures to provide children of migrant workers in European Community countries with extra tuition in the language of the host country and in their mother tongue from 1981.

But the committee has strongly protested that this right is to be guaranteed only for children from European Community member states. It is morally and educationally unacceptable that the children of German, English, Dutch and Italian migrant workers will receive extra language tuition while Indian, African or Spanish children are excluded from such classes, the committee said. It warned that this policy could lead "to a kind of class society and racialism which can produce serious social problems for migrant children".

EPS

NEW MEASURES SEEN THREATENING EQUAL  
TREATMENT OF ALL CHURCHES IN CHILE

Santiago (EPS) - Church circles have expressed concern that new "discriminatory measures" by the Pinochet regime may be designed to bring about formation of a "Protestant State Church". Eleven church leaders are reported to have requested an audience with the Chilean president to bring this concern to his attention.

According to informed sources, the government instructed regional authorities on 17 March to support as much as possible a so-called Protestant "Council of Pastors" because of its "absolute loyalty" to the junta. The council was said to have been organized as early as July 1975. Its members include 31 of the more than 300 independent Protestant churches and congregations in Chile.

Among those represented on the "Council of Pastors" is a group which separated from the Evangelical Lutheran Church and adopted the name "Lutheran Church in Chile". The Evangelical Lutheran Church is one of the eleven churches whose representatives are endeavouring to meet General Pinochet.

A "National Evangelical Coordinating Centre" (CENCA), established for liaison between church and state by "junta friendly" churches, has been recognized by the government. On its part, the government has opened an office to promote relations with certain churches.

Members of the "Council of Pastors" have been "legitimized" by being given official identity cards. It is feared that these developments indicate endeavours to bring about an "ideologization of the faith" designed to bring about unconditional acceptance of the present political situation and thereby affirming the 1973 coup d'etat as "divine intervention".

EPS

BRITISH GOVERNMENT ACTS  
AGAINST RACE DISCRIMINATION

London (EPS) - The British Government has toughened its stand against racial discrimination with the introduction of a new Act which covers club membership, education, training and the provision of goods and services.

As an example, Labour and Conservative political sporting clubs, and the country's 4,000 working men's clubs are now forbidden to refuse membership because of the colour of a person's skin. Hitherto, many have refused admission to non-whites.

The new Race Relations Act, which replaces Acts of 1965 and 1968 has wider powers. It will be administered by a new 'Commission of Racial Equality.

Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, said the legislation was necessary "because of the growing evidence of the persistence of widespread discrimination and the ineffectiveness of the existing law in eradicating it."

EPS

BISHOPS CALL FOR EUROPEAN UNITY  
AS STABILIZING FORCE

Chur (EPS) - The Roman Catholic bishops of Europe, acting in concert, have issued an urgent appeal for European unity.

"The closer countries of Europe are united," the bishops said, the more will they be able to help remove tensions in other parts of the world as well and, in the precarious balance of terror between world powers and power blocs, to serve as a stabilizing and peacemaking force.

"They might then also be in a better position to press for balanced general disarmament, and for reduction of the arms race and of the enormous sums of money spent on it today."

The plea for unity came in a 1,400-word document published on the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul (June 29) by the Council of European Bishops' Conference (CEBC) with headquarters here.

Issued on the initiative of Cardinal Joseph Hoeffner, Archbishop of Cologne, West Germany, and Cardinal Franz Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna, Austria, it was signed by the Bishops' Conferences of France, England and Wales, Scotland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Ireland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Scandinavia, Yugoslavia, Switzerland and Italy - 15 Bishops' Conferences in all.

The statement urged individual European countries to "abandon their narrow self-interest and nationalistic mentality" as something "outmoded by world political and economic developments," and join "in a common effort" to serve the cause of peace.

The bishops noted that Europe today "is politically divided, torn by religious and ideological strife, and stands in the shadow of more powerful political forces."

"But," they insisted, "the people of Europe realize that they are not merely trustees of the past. They know they can shape their 'common destiny' with one another and with the rest of the world.

"They therefore want to work in partnership with the people of Africa, America, Asia, Australia and Oceania - with the people by whom they have been influenced in many different ways in promoting world development and in advancing the spiritual and moral future of mankind."

EPS



AFRICANS PARTICIPATE IN TALKS  
ON CHURCH AND JEWISH PEOPLE

Jerusalem (EPS) - The biennial session of the Consultation on the Church and the Jewish People of the World Council of Churches, held here from 16-26 June, included for the first time African Christians in discussions of relationships between Christians and Jews.

Eighteen Europeans, six North Americans, and five Consultants from Israel were joined by thirteen Africans from Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. For the first time Jerusalem was chosen as the meeting-place of the Consultation, in order to strengthen the Christian presence in the Holy City and because of the centrality of Israel for Judaism throughout the world. The Jerusalem site made it possible to visit the Patriarchates of the Ethiopian, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian Churches, and the Russian Orthodox and Rumanian Orthodox Missions in Jerusalem. The host of the Consultation was the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel in the Dormition Abbey on Mt. Zion.

The delegates visited the Holocaust Memorial, Yad Va-Schem, Jewish-Christian reconciliation projects, the Ecce Homo Convent, and the Ecumenical Institute for Advanced Theological Studies at Tantur. The delegates celebrated Shabbat in local Jewish homes.

In the Galilee and West Coast area visits were made to the Christian monastic community at Lavra Netofa (near Deir Hanna), the Ecumenical Committee of Nazareth, the Arab-Jewish Centre in Acco, Kibbutz Kfar Ha-Maccabi, the Christian village Nes Ammim, the United Christian Council in Israel, and the Afro-Asiatic Institute for Community Development in Tel Aviv. The members of the Consultation participated in Sunday worship at St. Andrew's Church of Scotland in Jerusalem and at St. John's Episcopal Church in Haifa.

Daily Bible studies were led by Dr Hans-Ruedi Weber of the World Council of Churches, assisted by the Armenian Bishop Ajamian, Ethiopian Professor Yacob Tesfai, and the Jewish translator of the Bible, Professor André Chouraqui.

Professor Krister Stendahl of the USA and Professor D.C. Mulder from Holland addressed the topic, "Jewish-Christian Relations in the Wider Perspective of Dialogue with People of other Faiths and Ideologies". The theme, "How do African Christians Relate to Israel" was explored by Professor John Mbiti (Kenya). Other papers were submitted by Modupe Oduyoye (Nigeria), Solomon Aderi (Kenya), Temba Mafico (Zimbabwe) and Yacob Tesfai (Ethiopia). The delegates devoted a day to surveying existing guidelines for the relationship between Christians and Jews and made plans for ecumenical guidelines.

Area guidelines from Britain, Israel and the USA were received by the Consultation. Plans were made for use of these documents in the development of ecumenical guidelines.

European and North American participants, most of whom live in close association with Jewish neighbours, were interested in preventing antisemitism and in exploring the dimensions of witness and dialogue in their relations with Jews. The African Christians, who know Judaism chiefly through the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament and have little contact with a living Jewish community, focussed on the Jewish background of Christianity and the cultural parallels between Africa and Israel. The Africans found it difficult to accept the distinctiveness attributed to the Christian-Jewish dialogue as compared with dialogue with Islam and with people of other faiths. Moreover, the Africans felt no burden of guilt for the Holocaust, because during the same period black people suffered excruciating vilification from a triumphant West.

The Consultation was held as a part of the programme of Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies fostered by the World Council of Churches' Unit on Faith and Witness.

PLANS MADE FOR CLOSER  
WCC-WSCF COOPERATION

Geneva (EPS) - Closer cooperation between the World Council of Churches and the World Student Christian Federation is to be re-established in a series of discussion meetings on major issues, representatives of both organizations have agreed.

While there have been contacts in recent years between the two bodies in certain programme areas, more intensive and close links should be formed to facilitate effective work on issues that affect the ecumenical movement, it was said.

Topics to be dealt with in joint discussions to be held soon were identified at an exploratory meeting here 28 June as theological reflection, militarism, refugees and student exiles, women, socialism, people's movements, education and southern Africa. Ten WCC and fifteen WSCF staff members and officers participated in the initial talks. Future meetings will be smaller and concentrate on specific topics with a view to working out collaboration in programmes.

EPS

BRAZILIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
CONSTITUTION TO BE DRAFTED

Sao Paulo (EPS) - New attempts are being made to find a basis for the National (ecumenical) Council of Churches in Brazil. Five major denominations which have been meeting regularly to discuss the problem have now asked four church leaders to prepare a draft constitution. The proposed constitution will be presented at a meeting in November.

The project is of much significance to the ecumenical movement, since the Roman Catholic Church of Brazil, claimed to be the largest in the world, is one of the five participating bodies. The other participating churches are Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal and Reformed.

Episcopal Bishop Arthur Kratz, a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee, is one of the movers behind the project. He has said that the possibility of a common witness in Brazil is very important because individual churches alone are very weak in confronting the problems in Brazil today. One regret expressed was that the Protestant membership does not represent the majority of Protestant groups in the country.

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No. 20/44th Year

14th July 1977

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CHURCHES URGED TO FOCUS ON HOPE  
TO FACE WORLD SOCIAL ISSUES

Rocca di Papa, Italy (EPS) - Churches must more clearly emphasize the Christian doctrine of hope in the face of today's political, economic and social issues, discussions at a July 1-6 SODEPAX (Committee on Society, Development and Peace) have stressed. Participants repeatedly underlined that the Cross and the Trinity have to be seen again in their full social relevance to the struggle for a more just and humane society.

Held in this hillside town above Lake Albano, the colloquium was called together by SODEPAX to examine the theological dimensions of today's Christian social thought. The 33 theologians and social experts (18 Roman Catholics, 13 Protestants and two Orthodox) from 21 countries had been invited by SODEPAX through its two parent bodies, the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace of the Holy See and the World Council of Churches' Unit on Justice and Service.

The colloquium was co-chaired by Fr Raymond F. Collins, rector of American College and professor of New Testament Studies at Leuven, Belgium, on the Catholic side, and Anglican Bishop Hugh Montefiore, Kingston-on-Thames, for the World Council of Churches.

Purpose of the discussions was to develop a more substantial theological foundation for the current SODEPAX programme, entitled "In Search of a New Society: Christian Participation in the Building of Relations among Peoples".

The colloquium heard four principal speakers. The first two, Fr Michel Schooyans, professor of theology at Louvain-La Neuve (Belgium) and Prof. André Dumas of the Protestant Theological Faculty at Paris, reviewed developments of Catholic and WCC social thought up to the time of the WCC Geneva World Conference on Church and Society (1966) and to the publication of Populorum Progressio, the papal encyclical of 1967.

(more)

This was followed by two reflections on developments during the last decade. Prof. Jan Milic Lochman, a Czechoslovak theologian now teaching at Basel (Switzerland) spoke on the theological implications of the WCC's present search for a new and more just society at the world level, as seen in its action for development, its programme to combat racism and its stand for human rights. Dr John Finnis, Oxford law professor, at present teaching at Chancellor College in Blantyre (Malawi), gave an exposé on present-day Catholic social doctrine, with illustrations from papal and church teaching.

Reactions, serving to stimulate and concentrate the debate, were given by Professor Rubem Alves (Presbyterian, Brazil), Professor George Mantzaridis (Orthodox, Greece), Fr Paul Valadier (France) and Fr Aloysius Fonseca (India).

From these reflections and the debate several key items emerged, which were taken up in group work: (1) human rights; (2) structures and power; (3) conflict and reconciliation and (4) new life style/metanoia.

SODEPAX will use the material of this colloquium to strengthen its national and regional consultations. A summary is under preparation. (Persons interested should write to SODEPAX, Ecumenical Centre, P.O. Box 66, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland).

EPS

#### FOUR FILMS HONOURED WITH OTTO DIBELIUS PRIZE

Berlin (EPS) - The jury for the Otto Dibelius film prize of Interfilm, convened during the Berlin International Film Festival the first week of July, has awarded the DM 5,000 film prize in four equal parts of DM 1,250 each to "Ceddo" (director: Osman Sembene, Senegal), "Le Diable Probablement" (director: Robert Bresson, France) and "Moi, Pierre Rivière, ayant égorgé ma mère, ma soeur et mon frère" (director: René Allio, France).

At the same time the jury in association with the Interfilm presidium awarded the Grand Prix of Interfilm to "Padre Padrone" (directors: Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, Italy).

John Taylor, president of Interfilm and veteran World Council of Churches communication department staff member, who presented the awards, expressed deep appreciation for the support given the Berlin Festival and the Interfilm jury by the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg. "This support stands as a model for churches and other bodies that confess a concern for modern media and art especially this art of the 20th century," Mr Taylor said.

The Bishop Otto Dibelius award has been given for more than a decade by Interfilm (international interchurch film centre) to a film of spiritual significance. The prizes have in this time totalled DM 100,000 made available by the church of Berlin. Winners came not only out of the special competition but also from the Forum of young film makers with a special concern for productions from the Third World and films by and about women.

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CHURCHES' HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME  
DRAFTED TO SUPPORT HELSINKI ACT

Geneva (EPS) - An initial five-year, church-centred human rights programme to monitor and support implementation of the Helsinki Final Act (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) has been drafted and will be submitted for approval to WCC member churches and the three ecumenical bodies in the Helsinki area. The draft plan was developed at a colloquium called by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, held in Montreux 12-15 July, which was attended by some 50 representatives of the churches in 20 signatory states of the Helsinki Act and the three ecumenical bodies.

The plan provides for joint sponsorship of the human rights programme by the Conference of European Churches, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and the Canadian Council of Churches with the CEC assuming administrative responsibilities, and employing a programme secretary in consultation with the sponsoring organizations.

An eleven-member working committee, to be formed by the sponsoring bodies in consultation with the churches, will consist of four from Eastern Europe and four from Western Europe, to be appointed by the CEC, and three from North America, to be appointed by the CEC, and three from North America, to be appointed by the NCCUSA and the CCC. An alternate delegate for each is to be appointed at the same time. Annual costs of the programme have been estimated at \$80,000.

According to the plan, the working committee is to convene at least once a year for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating human rights violations in the signatory states of the Helsinki agreement, as far as these have been reported to the committee, and to inform and counsel churches and other relevant bodies about human rights problems within the context of the implementation of the Final Act of the Helsinki agreement. Other tasks include documentation on human rights, the coordination of study projects, and bi- and multi-lateral activities in participating churches, as well as regular contact with the CCIA, its Human Rights Advisory Group, and with other regional conferences of churches.

The work of the committee is planned on three levels: the Helsinki area, sub-regional levels, and national and local levels. Each church or national council will be urged to locate responsibility for human rights and religious liberty concerns in an existing body or to create one specifically for this purpose. At sub-regional levels, churches are encouraged to group together within geographical areas to reflect and act together.

The colloquium further recommended that the Roman Catholic Church and other religious organizations concerned should be informed of the intention to reflect together on problems of human rights and religious liberty and possible avenues for cooperation should be explored. A programme of common studies among the churches was proposed which should be carried out in a spirit of openness but avoiding confrontation.

Nor should these studies be carried on in an "eurocentric way", the colloquium said, but the relationship between questions arising in the Helsinki area and possible solutions of global problems "must be maintained and made fruitful for the world".

Emphasized in the plan is the fact that all ten principles of the Final Act of the Helsinki agreement are of equal importance. Topics for common studies suggested as part of the plan are: the interrelatedness of human rights, peace, disarmament and security; the tasks of the churches in the light of the existence of different understandings of human rights; efforts of the churches to improve information exchange between them; and the development of a "constructive-critical" solidarity.

Representatives of the three sponsoring organizations (CEC, NCCUSA and CCC) will meet next week in conjunction with the annual WCC Central Committee in Geneva with Central Committee members from Helsinki states to discuss ways and means of establishing a new human rights programme.



BRAZILIAN CHURCHES TO SPONSOR  
INDIGENOUS RELIGIOUS MUSIC

Sao Paulo (EPS) - Brazil's love of rhythmic music has not yet penetrated to the churches and a fear that North American gospel style songs will continue to swamp church services and allow little room for the development of an indigenous church music, has inspired ASTE (Evangelical Institute of Theology of Brazil) to call a meeting later this year on the teaching of religious music in church. The aim is to try to create a Brazilian musical conscience within the church.

Representatives expected to take part in the meeting will come from the Roman Catholics Bishops' Conference, which has already become involved in work in this field, the Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans and Independent Baptist Churches.

EPS

PACIFIC CONFERENCE IN AUGUST  
TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT

Port Moresby (EPS) - A Pacific-wide meeting to plan new patterns of development is to take place 22 August - 2 September at Kohimarama in the Solomon Islands. It will focus on the question "What sort of Pacific society do we wish to see in the 1980s, and what concrete steps can be take to bring it about?" Participants will represent people involved in government, churches, women's organizations, rural development programmes, trade unions and other major interest groups in the region.

Delegates will consider the histories of their countries and the impact made by Europeans. Plans will be discussed for the formation of a "watchdog organization" to respond to proposals for development aid, investigate forms of economic exploitation, and to encourage the churches to study involvement in total human development.

The agenda includes discussions of communication problems in the Pacific, the development of leadership training and adult education.

Named "Pacifique '77", the conference, hosted by the Solomon Islands Christian Association, will be coordinated by the Pacific Conference of Churches with the support of the Melanesian Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, and development agencies in Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere. Chairperson of the planning committee is Mrs Kila Amini, general secretary of the YWCA of Papua New Guinea.

EPS

PATRIARCH PIMEN DECORATED,  
JUVENALY REASSIGNED

Moscow (EPS) - Patriarch Pimen, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, has been decorated by the Soviet Government for his "great patriotic activities in the maintenance of peace".

Metropolitan Juvenaly, head of the Russian Orthodox Church foreign affairs department, has been appointed administrator of the Moscow Eparchy (Diocese) with the title Metropolitan of Krutitsy and Kolomma. He succeeds Metropolitan Seraphim who has retired for reasons of health. Although known as the Moscow Eparchy, the new jurisdiction which Metropolitan Juvenaly will head does not include urban Moscow which continues to be administered by Patriarch Pimen.

Metropolitan Juvenaly, a member of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee, was previously administrator of Tula and Belev.

EPS

WORLD YMCA HEARS VIDELA ON MORALITY,  
GREGORIOS ON RECONCILIATION

Buenos Aires (EPS) - Perhaps the biggest surprise at the Seventh World Council meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association held here 29 June to 6 July was the decisive participation of the president of the Argentine military junta. General Jorge Videla had specifically requested time to address the conference.

"This is the first time the president of a host country has taken such an active role in support of the World YMCA meetings," commented a delegate.

In the YMCA's 133-year history this was its first world meeting in Latin America, bringing together some 800 delegates from 89 countries on five continents.

Outgoing international YMCA president K.M. Philip in the opening address expressed the hope that the functions of the youth organization could be expanded.

A message from UN secretary general Kurth Waldheim said that "the goal of integrated development of the mind, the spirit and the human body, symbolized by the emblem of the YMCA, fully corresponds to the purposes and spirit of the United Nations."

The event provided an ideal setting for the Argentine military junta to attempt to change what it considers an unfair image abroad - due to the polemic about human rights.

General Videla addressed the closing session at the Hotel Sheraton. "Only the supremacy of a social order based on morality will be able to bring about human development," he said, adding, "Mankind's improvement through progress and the development of nations cannot be based on the supremacy of some over others; or in a permanent strategy of violence as the most efficient means of assuring the survival of an intensely competitive world."

General Videla concluded, "Your association's witness to legitimate pluralism and unity of Christian values should not lose its conviction and power" but should become "the basis for a more united, free and just world built to man's own measurements."

Metropolitan Dr Paulos Gregorios of the Orthodox Syrian Church of India and member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, referred to the theme of the conclave "A Call to Reconciliation" in another key address. He pointed out that "not all reconciliation is necessarily Christian. Where there is injustice it is not possible to reconcile the oppressor and the oppressed unless injustice is suppressed."

In his analysis the Metropolitan grouped world nations around four poles: underindustrialized non-oil-exporting countries, underindustrialized oil-exporting countries (with large Muslim population), underindustrialized socialist countries; and industrialized countries with free market economies.

Metropolitan Gregorios said, "We feel the YMCA has paid too little attention to the central fact of our times: the growing abyss between rich and poor in spite of great industrial progress." He cited statistics to illustrate the marked difference. "Between 1952 and 1972 the total product of the industrialized free market economies increased from 1,250 to 3,070 billion dollars and per capita income rose from 2,000 dollars to 4,000 dollars per year. The income gap between rich and poor was 1,825 dollars in 1952 and 3,700 dollars in 1972. The distance between rich and poor has more than doubled."

(more)



Then the Metropolitan asked a difficult question: "How long will it take us to realize that if justice is to be assured between and in nations, we have to go from a free market system to a system where property, the means of production and power over production and distribution is in the hands of the people?"

He concluded that "the problem of poverty and suffering in the poor countries will only be resolved by an equality of distribution, security based on social ownership of wealth, social participation in the decision-making process and in worldwide democratic control of international banking, monetary and commercial systems."

Arousing particular interest in discussion groups was the question of human rights, with a general tendency of the participants to condemn all forms of violation and abuse under whatever political system.

A highly debated issue was whether non-Christians should hold YMCA leadership positions. Many opposed the idea, saying non-Christians could then theoretically get important leadership positions and thus modify the basic Christian precepts of the organization. Others, particularly those from countries with a minority Christian population - for example, India with barely two percent - argued in favour of a more open policy. They said that such a limitation seriously handicaps the YMCA's development.

EPS

#### COMIC STRIP RIGHTS THREATEN ECUMENICAL PIDGIN PAPER

Port Moresby (EPS) - The American comic strip "The Phantom" created by Lee Falk is the subject of a clash over publishing rights involving the ecumenical paper "Wantok" (One Talk) which is written in Melanesian Pidgin and published in Papua New Guinea.

For the past seven years, "Wantok" has had publishing rights for the weekly "Phantom" series and through the paper the Phantom has become a folk hero in the rural areas. A government official recently asked "Wantok" editor Fr Francis Mihalic, SVD, if the comic strip character could encourage local children to eat peanut butter, as that was the most effective way to get them to do it.

"Wantok's" right to the weekly series is now threatened by a multinational company that owns the daily English-language "Post Courier" which has the rights for the daily "Phantom". It is putting pressure on the comic strip publishing syndicate to transfer to the "Post Courier" the rights to the weekly "Phantom" series now held by "Wantok". There is little doubt which side the Phantom himself would support, but it is difficult to win against multinationals.

"Wantok" became a weekly in January this year when the Catholic-founded fortnightly went ecumenical and moved its offices from Wewak to Port Moresby. Father Mihalic, who is the author of the standard grammar and dictionary of Melanesian Pidgin, founded "Wantok" in 1970. Melanesian Pidgin is recognized as the national language of Papua New Guinea and is spoken by more than 600,000 of the population 2,500,000 who speak no fewer than 700 languages. In the House of Assembly, 85 per cent of the debates are in Melanesian Pidgin, and most parliamentarians are readers of "Wantok" which has a circulation of 12,000 and reaches rural areas. The "Post Courier" with a circulation of 17,000 is read mostly in the cities.

EPS

OAU TO SUPPORT CONFERENCE ON  
REFUGEES IN AFRICA NEXT YEAR

Nairobi (EPS) - The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has agreed in principle to fully support the proposed high-level refugee conference scheduled some time next year to review and evaluate the present refugee situation in Africa, it was disclosed here by the general secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, Canon Burgess Carr, who attended the OAU summit meeting in Libreville, Gabon, as an official observer.

The plight of refugees in Africa has attracted a great deal of attention at national, regional and international levels. According to OAU estimates, there are presently approximately two million refugees in Africa. The churches in Africa put the figure at one and a half million, although this is believed to be a conservative estimate since the figure does not include refugees who are not officially registered.

The conference will focus attention on the legal, social, economic, institutional, administrative and financial aspects of the problems faced by refugees in independent African countries.

Canon Carr said he found "overwhelming appreciation" of the position taken by the AACC with regard to recent atrocities and "flagrant abuse" of human rights in Africa. He got this impression after conferring with a number of foreign ministers and heads of state, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the secretaries general of the OAU and the UN.

The AACC Refugee Department confirmed that plans have been sanctioned for the conference, and that the date and venue will be decided shortly. The conference will be organized by the AACC in collaboration with the World Council of Churches (WCC), International University Exchange Fund (IUCF) and OAU Bureau for Placement and Education for African Refugees (BPEAR).

Plans to hold the conference were initiated last year at a meeting of the AACC Refugee Projects Committee in Cairo, Egypt. Here, it was decided that invitations be sent to some of the refugees, refugee-serving agencies and governments to participate in the conference in an attempt to tackle the problem of "the abuse of refugee rights". The general secretary was given the mandate with immediate effect to write to the OAU administrative secretary general and the UNHCR, acquainting them with the proposals for the conference and requesting their full cooperation.

The purpose of the conference, which will centre on the theme "Granting of Asylum is a peaceful and humanitarian act," is to keep all concerned - governments, governmental organizations, voluntary agencies and refugee services - fully aware of the rapidly changing nature of the problems facing refugees in independent Africa, and to keep them conversant with the possible, permanent or temporary solutions to these problems in order for them to become more committed.

EPS

LIBERIAN LUTHERAN NAMED TO  
WORLD COMMUNICATION POST

London (EPS) - A Liberian educator has been named secretary for communication education of the World Association for Christian Communication. She is Mrs Thelma Traub Awori, a lecturer at the Institute for Adult Studies of the University of Nairobi since 1973. She will begin her four-year assignment to the post at association headquarters here in mid-July.

Mrs Awori's parents are the Rev. Byron Zolu Dumah Traub, a pastor in the Lutheran Church of Liberia and a senator in the Liberian government, and Mrs Margaret Traub a literacy work leader and editor of New Day publications.

EPS



POLAND HONOURS BRETHREN'S  
EAST-WEST EXCHANGE PROJECT

Warsaw (EPS) - A Church of the Brethren exchange programme that has hosted 500 Polish agricultural scientists in the US for research and study was honoured in Warsaw last month by the State Council of the Polish People's Republic.

Three Brethren clergymen who had served as directors of the programme were presented with silver Orders of Merit, along with some 19 other Americans associated with the project's 20-year history.

Begun initially in 1947 and then curtailed for a decade by the Cold War, the exchange programme focuses on Polish scientists who are in master or doctoral study programmes or research. In addition, since 1957 a total of 67 Brethren Service volunteers have spent one or two years in Poland, usually in the role of English instructors or translators in agricultural institutions.

By welding Polish theory to US practice, the programme has contributed to a revolution in Polish agriculture, says a Church of the Brethren statement. Special mention is made of achievements in the fields of pomology, agriculture, food processing and soil conservation.

According to the current US director of the programme, the Rev. H. Lamar Gible, the exchange has four thrusts: sharing the best agricultural techniques and theory, building bridges of understanding and goodwill, advancing the prospects of world peace, and combating global hunger by pooling agricultural expertise.

EPS

BILLY GRAHAM MEETINGS IN  
HUNGARY TO BE SCHEDULED

Minneapolis (EPS) - Evangelist Billy Graham and the Rt Rev. Sandor Palotay, representing the Council of Free Churches of Hungary, have announced that Dr Graham and his team have accepted an invitation to hold a series of religious meetings in Hungary. All that remains to be done for Dr Graham to preach in the eastern European country is agreement on a date.

Dr Walter H. Smyth, a vice president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and director of BGEA's International Ministries said "it is hoped that such a visit shall take place in the foreseeable future, possibly this fall."

The invitation was issued to Dr Graham following discussions in mid-July between Dr Smyth and Hungarian church officials at the General Council meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Miami. At the same time Dr Smyth met with church officials of the Soviet Union to discuss a possible preaching visit by Dr Graham and his evangelistic team to Russia. Informal talks were held with the Rev. A. Bichkov, president of the European Baptist Federation and one of the leaders of evangelical Baptists in the Soviet Union and the Rev. M. Zhidkov, a Baptist pastor in Moscow.

The matter of Dr Graham's preaching in Hungary, Dr Smyth said, has been under consideration for five years since he and Dr Graham first met with Hungarian church leaders at Cleveland, Ohio, Crusade in July of 1972. The Council of Free Churches of Hungary comprises eight denominations.

EPS

ECUMENICAL CENTRE OPENED AT  
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Nairobi (EPS) - An ecumenical student centre, jointly built by the Catholic Bishops Conference and the National Council of Churches of Kenya, has been inaugurated here at the University of Nairobi.

The six-floor building contains 24 single rooms for students and a like number of efficiency or studio apartments for graduates who have difficulties finding suitable living quarters elsewhere in Nairobi. There are also a number of smaller meeting rooms, a meditation room, recreational facilities, a library, an auditorium seating 550, and offices.

Operating expenses will be covered by renting offices to church-related student organizations and monthly rentals of \$60 for singles and \$120 for apartments. The daily meal cost will come to \$2.50 per person. The centre is administered by a board of directors composed of representatives of church organizations. An ecumenical team of chaplains participates in the programming, such as prayer meetings, musical evenings, lectures and short conferences. Facilities are made available to other Christian groups, particularly during vacation time.

EPS

ANGOLA CHURCHES FORM  
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Geneva (EPS) - First president of Angola's new Council of Churches is United Methodist Bishop Emilio de Carvalho. He was appointed along with other officers at a meeting of representatives from the eight member churches, held recently in Luanda, capital of the Popular Republic of Angola, according to reports reaching the World Council of Churches.

To be known as the "Angolan Council of Evangelical Churches" the new ecumenical body will invite membership only from those groups that "live in harmony with other churches or associations and are legally instituted in the country". A trinitarian and biblical faith is also stipulated in the constitution.

Among the first actions of the new Council was the setting up of a permanent commission for social services in the country. Other Council objectives include evangelization, pastoral training and communication.

Founding members of the Council are: the Council of Evangelical Churches in Central Angola; the Christian Evangelical Church of Luanda; the Evangelical Church of Angola; the Evangelical Baptist Church in Angola; the Evangelical Church of Northern Angola; the United Methodist Church; the Evangelical Pentecostal Mission of Angola and the Kimbanguist Church.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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POTTER OUTLINES MAJOR CONCERNS  
FOR WCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Geneva (EPS) - Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, addressing the first press conference of the 1977 Central Committee, meeting here from 28 July to 6 August, presented three major concerns as the topics to be discussed by the 134-member policy-making body.

These three concerns were, he said, "The Confessing Community", the consensus document on "One Baptism, One Eucharist and a Mutually Recognized Ministry" and how the churches can work toward a just, participatory and sustainable society.

On the first point Dr Potter pointed out that in some places in the world "renewed" Christians are facing persecution and suffering. In other parts of the world congregations are complacent and yet in other places small communities, such as "charismatics" are acting as renewal groups.

The second major concern, on the churches' reaction to the consensus document "One Baptism, one Eucharist and a Mutually Recognized Ministry", incorporates, said Dr Potter, the work of theologians and groups who met over many years and who represent all the major confessions including the Roman Catholics. It is also the first time that the World Council has submitted a consensus statement on the basic doctrines of the Church to the churches for their official response.

The theme of a just, participatory and sustainable society is that which will form the third major concern of this meeting of the Central Committee. In today's world what is the Christian vision of a just society? This, said Potter, was the first question, but within the theme two other words have been added: participatory, meaning a society where all the people have the opportunity to take part in the decision-making process, and sustainable. This had been added, Dr Potter said, to see how the resources of the world could sustain the life of society for, he added, it was the use of resources which created an unjust world.

Also to be discussed at the Central Committee will be the ongoing programmes of the Council, particularly those under the Unit II umbrella. These Potter classified as social and economic, with particular emphasis on the idea of the new international economic order, and also the role of the transnational corporations.

Under the title of political and institutional, Potter mentioned developments in the area of human rights, armaments and the arms race, and the ways states provide for the participation of people in the process of government and of national security.

The Committee, said Potter, would also be planning a world conference in 1979 concerning science and technology.

Statements are expected on two public issues, Southern Africa, with emphasis on the Namibian situation, and the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1978. Particular mention of the increasing use of torture in today's world would be the theme of this statement.



POTTER CHALLENGES CHURCHES TO RECOGNIZE  
INTERRELATEDNESS OF WCC WORK

Geneva (EPS) - The lack of interaction between questions of faith and order, mission and evangelism, education and renewal, and service and the quest for justice and peace is at the heart of the spiritual crisis of the churches and of the ecumenical movement, in the judgement of Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches.

In his report to the 134-member Central Committee meeting here he expressed the belief that fifty years ago, at the Lausanne Faith and Order Conference, there was a clear understanding that the faith and order of the churches, and their mandates for evangelism and service were inextricably bound together. Experience, however, had led him to ask the question: "Is this as true today as it was in the intention of the churches which covenanted to be members of the Council nearly thirty years ago?"

Dr Potter pointed out that the Council is constantly under attack for not holding the call to unity, mission and service together. "There are those who perversely and almost parrot-fashion say that the World Council is giving far too much attention to social and political issues and not enough to work for the unity and evangelistic task of the church, and that our social concerns lack theological grounding", said Potter. He went on to show that the three major issues to be discussed during this meeting all relate to the character of the church as the missionary, serving people of God. These three themes concern the document "One Baptism, One Eucharist and a Mutually Recognized Ministry", the search for a just, participatory and sustainable society, and the main theme of the meeting "The Confessing Community".

Potter's report was an attempt to demonstrate the wholeness of the work of the Council but, he asked, "Why is this wholeness not perceived by the member churches and by others who comment on the activities of the World Council? It is not enough to say that churches or groups interest themselves mainly in one or other programme of the Council."

Church structures and institutions have predisposed members to a division of concerns, this has affected the mentality of Christians, said Dr Potter, especially in terms of the churches' prophetic witness on social and political issues. "The training of Christians in the faith has been truncated and so they have not been able to connect their faith with the actions in the world. Nor have they been able to discern the consequences of their actions for their understanding of their faith and their life together", Dr Potter continued. He then outlined three elements in thinking where, he felt, the churches could be more faithful to the Gospel and the insights received during the years of ecumenical fellowship. These elements were revealed in the words "truth", "loyalty, or steadfast love" and "suffering".

Explaining the context in which he placed these words Potter drew attention to the significance of the work of the Faith and Order movement, which, over fifty years has dared to tackle the doctrines, dogmas, traditions and ecclesiologies of the churches and the way that the age-old issues which have divided the churches have been restated, opened up and placed on the consciences of the churches. "We have discovered that the Gospel is no private affair", he went on, "to proclaim the Gospel is to expose persons and communities to the realities of their existence. We cannot preach the justification of the sinner without declaring the justice of God", he declared.

(more)

"The most spectacular contribution of the ecumenical movement in learning and practising the truth has been in our tradition of service to the world, and of proclaiming God's Kingdom of justice and peace", said Dr Potter. He linked this to his second word for, he said "truth is related both to steadfast love and justice. It is that trust which makes for open, unconcealed human relationships of sharing and unwavering loyalty."

The third element in this style of thinking and living is "suffering", said Dr Potter. "There is no openness or trust without suffering. There can be no reconciliation, no peace, no justice in our world unless we are prepared to place ourselves on the line." This means, thought Potter, being willing to face up to the consensus document on baptism, eucharist and ministry, and to struggle for liberation from all structures of injustice, the violations of human rights, and the human carnage of war.

Churches, said Dr Potter have not always faced the consequences of this challenge. "They have seldom faced the suffering of rigorous self-scrutiny and the willingness to change. Church union schemes have been an exercise in ensuring that the traditions and the practices of the negotiating churches are kept intact. Each church expects the other to make sacrifices, but not itself."

"The churches are called to be confessing communities", continued Potter, "but they do not come to terms with the need to rethink radically the ways in which they conduct their life, budget and spend their money, and employ their energies. It is a confessing without pain. In recent years, we have witnessed the agonizing spectacle of churches trying to wriggle themselves out of the disclosures of their corporate involvement in structures of injustice and their refusal to rid themselves of their complicity with the forces of exploitation and oppression and to take the costly stand for justice and human rights."

Dr Potter concluded that there is "no escape from this calling to suffer" but that the "spirituality in suffering becomes light and hope in the struggle for a new world in which dwells God's justice and peace."

EPS

#### GQWETA PROTEST

Geneva (EPS) - Deep regret that the Moravian Church in South Africa has prevented one of their ministers from attending the current meeting of the WCC Central Committee was expressed in the Committee's opening session.

The Rev. David J.X. Gqweta, elected to the 134-member Central Committee at the 1975 Nairobi Assembly, was declined permission by his church to attend the 1977 meeting after he was transferred to a new district on 1 July.

Interventions on his behalf by the WCC and the South African Council of Churches have resulted in a "complete no" to Mr Gqweta's attendance, said WCC general secretary Dr Philip Potter.

Dr Potter was asked by Central Committee to write to the Moravian Church expressing regret that a committee member who wanted to attend was prevented from doing so.

EPS



GREATER MORAL INTEGRITY CALLED  
FOR BY ARCHBISHOP SCOTT

Geneva (EPS) - A call for greater integrity in personal and corporate relationships, and a warning against Christians trying to justify themselves by "pulling moral rank" set a tone of personal challenge to the address delivered by Archbishop E.W. Scott, from Canada, Moderator of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, at the opening session of the Committee's 1977 meeting.

Archbishop Scott drew attention to the "increasing public revelation of widespread lack of integrity in both personal and corporate relationships", both within and between countries. This may well be "a more subtle and serious danger to civilization than the more obvious and repugnant evil of torture", said the moderator.

Asked at a press conference later to illustrate this lack of integrity in relationships, Archbishop Scott pointed to examples in both the public and private field of international business, in his home country of Canada and elsewhere. He talked also of deteriorating public attitudes to law and the payment of taxes. "This is a crucial area that raises very personal questions about our own individual integrity," said the moderator, "We're all part of the problem or part of the solution."

To illustrate his point about the destructiveness of "pulling moral rank", Archbishop Scott turned to the debate on social and political justice. He described the danger of any one group assuming that it was just while others were unjust. "We get nowhere by blaming others," he said and suggested instead a deeper analysis of each disputed situation, because "with deeper understanding comes deeper responsibility."

The context of the moderator's remarks was provided by the Central Committee's theme of "The Confessing Community". To develop such communities we need deeper life-giving and life-sustaining relationships with God, ourselves, each other and the whole created order, he said.

Departing from his text, Archbishop Scott stressed the importance of an ecumenical setting for this search: "When I meet with my fellow Anglicans, even with the diversity we bring, there are still unconscious assumptions that we aren't called to examine at depth as we are in ecumenical reflections."

The body of the moderator's address presented a review of ecumenical events since the last Central Committee meeting and the actions of the Executive Committee in the interim period. Archbishop Scott made special mention of the need to "provide greater pastoral support for those working in international ecumenical positions" especially where staff are recruited, then find themselves unable to return to their home countries. Confessional families must share in the responsibility for these people's future employment and welfare, said the moderator.

EPS

WCC WORLD BANK TO  
BEGIN OPERATIONS

Geneva (EPS) - A new independent world bank, sponsored originally by the World Council of Churches and known as the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (EDCS), came into full operation on 29 July.

At its first annual general meeting it was announced that a letter had been received from the US securities exchange commission stating that it had no objection to US trust fund money from WCC member churches, their boards and agencies, being used to buy shares in the society. With this release of pledged money the fund moved above the US\$1,000,000 required by the Central Committee of the WCC before operations could begin.

The meeting admitted 92 church organizations as shareholders in addition to the original two (the WCC and the Council of Churches in the Netherlands), and the operating capital stood at US\$1,103,711.

The idea of the EDCS was adopted by the Central Committee in Berlin in 1974 as a result of the knowledge that existing loans, such as from the World Bank, did not reach the 40 per cent of the poorest people in the world. It was recognized that over the years the work of Inter-Church Aid and the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development (CCPD) had given the churches a great deal of contact and experience with people in that 40 per cent.

The interim board also appointed Mr Adrian Wijemanne from Sri Lanka as the general manager, the Reverend Frederick Bronkema, as the EDCS representative in the USA.

Dr Cyril Bennett, from the Methodist Church of Britain, the interim executive director, also explained that almost 50 per cent of the shareholders are from third world countries but that UK participation was precluded by a ruling of the Charity Commissioners. A final law ruling is still awaited. In the meantime some US\$190,000 of the pledged money is unable to be used.

A new board of nine directors was appointed. These represent the Netherlands, Sweden, USA (2), Ghana, India, Indonesia, Lebanon and the WCC. Six vacancies remain.

The society which has its registered offices in the Netherlands, is to make low interest loans to third world projects. The general manager gave as an example of the type of projects to be supported a request for funds from a fishermen's cooperative in Ghana. The funds would provide refrigeration facilities which would reduce wastage and provide secure employment for both fishermen and fish-mongers. He also stated that 13 requests had been received from Africa, ten from Asia and eight from Latin America.

EPS



"THE CONFESSING COMMUNITY", MAIN THEME  
OF WCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Geneva (EPS) - Panelists from nations with different political systems and from churches with different traditions provided varied perspectives to the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches here on what it means to be a "confessing" church.

An American saw more of a danger to the churches in the United States from "seduction" than persecution. A Czechoslovakian delegate viewed official repression as forcing Christians to make real decisions about whether they are willing to be a part of Christ's body. A leader of a relatively new church growing out of the missionary experience mourned a continued unwillingness of church members to equate social involvements with confessing Christ. One of the prelates of a very old church felt the growth in numbers from confessing Christ was likely to be small, but the job had to be done - with the "harvest left to God".

On the other hand, two Africans, during discussion that followed, found the problem of being a confessing community essentially western, one of them indicating that Africans had a confessing community until the missionaries came and divided them.

The panel presentation and discussion, with the title "The Confessing Community", was the opening thrust for the main theme of the nine-day meeting.

Jim Wallis, editor of the American evangelical publication Sojourners, asserted that being an evangelical Christian in the US currently is "in", that along with a Christian President the country is rife with politicians, athletes and beauty queens openly professing Christianity. He found the in-character of Christianity to be a support of the American way of life with affluence as its mark, sacrificing the radical demands of the Gospel.

Wallis said the church must resist this seduction of making the identity of the church synonymous with the identity of the nation. "If Jesus is Lord, then Caesar is not," he told the 134 members of the Central Committee plus visitors and consultants. "The Pentagon is not. ITT and Exxon is not. National security is not."

Conversion in the US must be from an American order to a Christian order, he explained, with American Christians realizing they are pilgrims in a strange land, a community of exiles - participants in civil religion.

In a subsequent Press Conference Wallis also criticized the Carter administration programme on human rights as having more style than substance".

Prof. Josef Smolik of Czechoslovakia said the churches of his country found themselves powerless in 1948, a situation not of their own choosing. Most Christians felt it to be God's judgement, but behind it God's love aimed at refining and purifying. "Every member (of the church in Czechoslovakia) is challenged as to whether he really wants to be a member of the community," Prof. Smolik explained. He said the situation in which the church finds itself means that it must continually live in hope, which is "much appealing to us". The community of repentance and hope is the starting point for a confessing community, in his estimation.

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In response to a question from Dr Emilio Castro, director of the World Council's unit on World Mission and Evangelism, Prof. Smolik observed that the church in his country is struggling with the question of how it confesses Christ in its situation, how to combine witness and engagement, and it is aware that it cannot retire from the struggle to prevent war, solve the ecological crisis and other secular problems. "We cannot leave the future of the world only to the providence of God," he said.

Mrs Dorinda Sampath, of the church in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, described her church as being a new one, with a missionary yesterday, an autonomous today and a confluence of the two for the future. The attitude of most of her people, she said, is that preaching, pastoral work and religious education - the traditional view of ministry - is the essence of the church. The congregation sees itself not so much as serving as being served. However, she said, control of the church is gradually moving from the privileged elite to humbler folk who have learned of their rights and opportunities in the secular field. The masses are now beginning to look to the church for leadership even as the cries of socialist and communist are being levelled, she explained.

Mrs Sampath cited three factors helping reorient the church to a "risk" course: 1. The ecumenical movement; 2. The rapid change of social condition; 3. A new type of leadership interested in service instead of power.

Metropolitan Ignatios Hazim of Syria, speaking for a very old Orthodox church, declared that the Middle Eastern church does not have the options of transforming economy and politics as the other speakers indicated. He said the Christians of the region are confronted with confessing in competition with other religions, including political religions. The region has known little peace, he explained, facing the early crusade from Islam in the South, the second crusades from the West, and what he described as the third crusades from Judaism.

Metropolitan Hazim said the Orthodox Church in the Middle East has three confessing communities, the family being a very important one in his society. Marriage and the family is a sacramental existence, he said, and, as such, is where the elements of love, sacrifice and joy are lived out. The religious community, based on self-forgetfulness and permanent confession, and the community of saints, who are one with the Lord and symbolic of unity, are the others.

The Rev. P.J.M. Ndebele of Botswana and Mrs Marie Momo-Kingue of Cameroon offered African viewpoints from the floor.

Rev. Ndebele said it is difficult now for Africans to have a confessing community for the missionaries have established denominational schools, hospitals and thinking. With African countries becoming independent, independence has great value for Africans and that is bound to affect the church's attempt to confess as a body. Mrs Kingue agreed, adding that she appreciated Metropolitan Hazim's emphasis on the family, noting that the community in Africa begins in the family and spreads to the church.

Dr Anwar Barkat of Pakistan told the Central Committee that no consideration of a confessing community can be made without Asia, from which half of humanity and three-fourths of the world's poor come. He asked what the confessing community is calling people to. In his area, he said, it is only to powerlessness and discrimination. The Christian confession in Asia must be radically different. It will not bring unity but separation, he surmised.

Professor Ofelia Ortega, an advisor from Cuba, said she believed that confession today for the Cuban church means working together with Marxists to build a new society through physical work, mass organization, participation in people's power, pastors witnessing through secular work, and reading and understanding the Bible in a new way.



NEW CHALLENGE ON QUESTIONS  
OF FAITH AND ORDER

Geneva (EPS) - The world's Protestant and Orthodox churches were challenged this week to go beyond the decades of theological discussion and push for a deeper expression of unity.

Dr Lukas Vischer told the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches that the unity sought by the World Council is more than "permanent dialogue, more than co-existence". He pressed the 134 representatives of Christian bodies around the globe to determine what kind of consensus is necessary to bring them together on baptism, the Eucharist and mutual recognition of ministry.

Reporting on responses sought and received from some 100 church bodies relative to baptism, Eucharist and ministry, Dr Vischer observed that there was considerable agreement on the first two, not so much on ministry.

Dr Vischer, director of the World Council's Commission on Faith and Order, declared that the desire for continued diversity must not be justification for division. He continued: "The very nature of the church is betrayed when division, especially division at the Lord's table, is accepted in the church as inevitable. It is not enough for the churches to meet one another. Dialogue is simply an instrument. The goal is reconciliation, shalom, communio. We are not permitted to accept anything less than this as our goal."

The World Council, at the urging of its Nairobi General Assembly, last year collected theological agreements over the years on the three faith areas and distributed them to the churches for response.

Admitting that response from some of the churches contained sharp criticism, Dr Vischer asserted that consensus on baptism, the Eucharist and ministry are required so "that each local church may know that it shares the truth known to the universal fellowship". He wondered if some of the new movements of faith crossing traditional denominational lines is not the result of failure of the ecumenical movement "to offer sufficient common ground, sufficient spiritual support and sufficient common perspective for the future to the Christians and Christian communities struggling to witness to Christ in their situations".

The World Council staff member offered two proposals on behalf of the Faith and Order Commission: 1. That a careful revision of agreements on baptism, Eucharist and ministry be made in continuing consultation with the churches for presentation to the sixth World Council assembly. 2. That the churches establish regular intercessory prayer for each other as a "precondition" of life more fully together.

Dr Vischer said it has been shown that certain doctrinal formulas really express different aspects of the same truth and are no justification for division. He added that it is important not to ask too much of a consensus, that it should leave plenty of room for diversity of expressions. "In striving for the consensus, the churches must make it a rule not to require of other churches more than they require of their own members," he explained. "The unity we are seeking must at least allow for as great a diversity as already exists today in the individual churches."

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In urging that the matter of a consensus be taken to the churches and out of the higher ecumenical councils, Dr Vischer indicated that the dialogue must take place at all levels of the church. He said the responses to the baptism, Eucharist and ministry document show that unity can only be reached by concrete steps on the part of the churches. "Clearly it is not necessary or even desirable that the churches should sacrifice their individuality on the altar of some uniformity devised in ecumenical discussions. But they must draw sufficiently close to one another in doctrine and practice to be able to constitute a real fellowship," Vischer noted.

Dr Vischer's presentation was a major one opening the second week of the Central Committee's deliberations and it was met by expression of appreciation from committee members. Several members objected, however, to what they termed as generalities in dealing with the actual responses from the churches.

Metropolitan Parthenios Coinidis of the Greek Orthodox Church chided Vischer that something so great could not be achieved quickly. He said that the Faith and Order movement had come a long way in 50 years and it might take 50 years more. "We have to leave a little work for God to do," he said, drawing a chuckle from Central Committee members.

The Rev. Per Lonning of Norway observed, however, that leaving work to God should not necessarily slow down the pace of it. And Vischer, in his response, said that "we owe it to the next generation to do as much as we can".

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# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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11th August 1977

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THE FOLLOWING ROUND-UP STORY OF THE 1977 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING HAS ALSO BEEN DISTRIBUTED AS A PRESS RELEASE. IT IS REPRODUCED HERE ESPECIALLY FOR CHURCH LEADERS WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE.

WCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONCLUDES ITS WORK  
AND SENDS MESSAGE TO MEMBER CHURCHES

Geneva, 8 August (EPS) - A letter to be used in the worship of local member churches was written and approved by the 134 members of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches at its meeting here 28 July - 6 August.

The letter which calls on Christians around the world to join in prayer for a church that truly confesses Jesus Christ in word and deed, was the result of the debate on the main theme of this year's Central Committee, "The Confessing Community". It calls on Christians in their own settings to examine whether they effectively witness in their daily lives, share their faith with others, identify with people in need and act in a manner that does not contradict their witness.

During the debate sharp criticism of the letter centred on its being too pastoral, too theological and not prophetic enough. In acknowledgement of this, the letter confesses to division among the churches, failure to witness to Christ, Christians conforming to society, inability to go where Christ leads, and shrinking from solidarity with oppressed people.

The theme of "The Confessing Community" was explained at the opening press conference by Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, as being one of the three major concerns of the meeting. The other two he detailed as the consensus document "One Baptism, One Eucharist and a Mutually Recognized Ministry" and how the churches can work toward a just, participatory and sustainable society.

He again linked these three elements of the life of the World Council and the member churches in his report to the committee. In this he challenged the churches to recognize the inter-relatedness of the work of the Council. The lack of interaction between questions of faith and order, mission and evangelism, education and renewal, and service and quest for justice and peace is at the heart of the spiritual crisis of the churches and of the ecumenical movement, commented Dr Potter.

Dr Potter's address demonstrated the wholeness of the work of the Council. "Why," he asked, "is this wholeness not perceived by the member churches...it is not enough to say that the churches or groups interest themselves mainly in one or other programme of the Council".

The general secretary outlined three elements in his thinking where, he felt the churches could be more faithful to the Gospel and the insights received during the years of ecumenical fellowship. These elements he believed were revealed in the words "truth", "loyalty or steadfast love" and "suffering".

Demonstrating these three qualities the general secretary said of the first that it "is the relentless determination to allow God's word to reveal, expose the realities around us, to let the text speak in and through the context". The idea of showing or "exposing" the realities was also contained in the second and third points. "To proclaim the Gospel", continued Potter, "is to expose persons and communities to the realities of their existence, and to point to the reality made

(more)



public in the life, death and resurrection of Christ." The third element he described as "openness and trust, the relentless exposure of the reality of our broken world in the light of the reality of the Gospel and the dialogue in community which enables us to be and keep open, the demand that we should learn to suffer. There is no openness or trust without suffering. There can be no reconciliation, no peace, no justice in our world unless we are prepared to place ourselves on the line."

In taking up the second of the themes of the meeting, the consensus document, "One Baptism, One Eucharist and a Mutually Recognized Ministry", Dr Lukas Vischer, Director of the WCC's Commission on Faith and Order explained that the unity sought by the World Council is more than "permanent dialogue, more than co-existence".

Explaining this position he declared: "The very nature of the church is betrayed when division, especially division at the Lord's table, is accepted in the church as inevitable." However, he went on, "Clearly, it is not necessary or even desirable that the churches should sacrifice their individuality on the altar of some uniformity devised in ecumenical discussions. But they must draw sufficiently close to one another in doctrine and practice to be able to constitute a real fellowship".

In preparation for the Sixth Assembly, it is planned that a careful revision of agreements be made on baptism, eucharist and ministry and that in the meantime the churches should establish regular intercessory prayer for each other as a precondition of life more fully together.

The third theme which had been pinpointed by Dr Potter, on a just, participatory and sustainable society, had a number of elements discussed, particularly in relation to the planned 1979 world conference on "The Meaning of Faith in a World in which Science and Technology are Transforming Forces that both Liberate and Destroy Persons and Human Values". This conference plans to bring together some 300 Christian leaders and scientists to discuss energy, environment, third world development and the ethics of technological advances.

Particular reference was made to the nuclear energy debate and World Council staff were urged to promote a "sane and informed" discussion of the issue. Third world concerns about nuclear energy were expressed by Pastor Manoel de Mello, of Brazil, who, in supporting the position taken in his own country on the issue, asserted that the poorer countries have no other choice than nuclear energy because they need all the technology they can get.

Among other programmes which received support from the Central Committee was that which is exploring the role of the transnational organizations, especially their influence in the life and economy of third world countries.

The continuing debate over human rights was taken a step further at this meeting with approval given to the setting up of an advisory group. It is hoped that this group can hold its first meeting in late 1977 or early 1978.

Public issues about which the Central Committee spent some time concerned torture and Southern Africa.

In support of next year's celebration of the 30th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the committee's statement asks the world's churches to intensify their efforts to inform members and the people of their nations about the provisions of article 5 of the declaration which reads: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment."

Dr William Thompson, of the United Presbyterian Church, USA, declared during the debate that "the state that has to guarantee its security by the torture of people does not deserve to be secure at all". The statement claimed that "in our generation the darkness, deceit and inhumanity of the torture chamber have become a more widespread and atrocious reality than at any other time in history".

The Southern Africa situation, covering the countries of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, was called "tragic and volatile" by the Central Committee. The statement declares as "blasphemous the grave and blatant injustices being perpetrated in the name of Christian civilization by the governments and powerful oppressors of Southern Africa.

The statement also pleads for compliance with UN Resolution 385 on Namibia, which asks primarily for free elections under UN supervision, for mercenary soldiers in the Rhodesian armed forces to be held as criminal offenders in their home countries, and also deplores the reported scheme to transfer en masse whites from South Africa to Latin America.

A brighter financial situation was reported for the World Council with this year's expenditure running "well below" the authorized level. A budget of US\$ 14 million was approved for 1978 of which US\$ 2,750,000 will be sought from central church treasuries and other undesignated sources.

The Council's membership now totals 293 churches. New members accepted this year came from as far apart as Melanesia and the Sudan. Four churches were accepted as full members and two as associate members of the Council. Also accepted as an associate council was the Christian Council of Ghana.

EPS

#### UGANDAN CHURCH CELEBRATES CENTENARY

London (EPS) - A joyous occasion which exceeded all expectations was how one eye witness described the recent centenary celebrations of the Church of Uganda. The celebrations on Namirembe hill, site of the Anglican cathedral in Kampala, were the culmination of more than a year's preparation throughout the Church of Uganda.

Archbishop Janani Luwum had been closely involved with the centenary programme and at one time it was thought that the celebrations should be cancelled. But after a meeting of the Bishops with President Amin in March, the programme went ahead.

Difficulties and the cost of travel did not deter large crowds from gathering on the hill and families offered hospitality to fellow Christians who had travelled from the north and south of the country.

A wreath was placed on the grave of Bishop James Hannington, martyred in 1885, from the great-granddaughter of the chief who had ordered his murder.

At midnight the crowd sang "Rock of Ages" and the Ugandan martyrs' hymn and cheered the start of the second century of witness.

EPS



STATEMENT ON TORTURE from the 1977 meeting of the Central Committee of the WCC

"...the emphasis of the Gospel is on the value of all human beings in the sight of God, on the atoning and redeeming work of Christ that has given to humanity true dignity, on love as the motive for action, and on love for one's neighbour as the practical expression of an active faith in Christ. We are members of one another, and when one suffers /all are hurt."

(Consultation on Human Rights and Christian Responsibility)  
St. Pölten, Austria, 1974)

The thirtieth meeting of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee (Geneva, 28 July - 6 August, 1977) has heard the words of its Moderator, who, with deep sorrow, directed its attention to "a steady increase in reports of violation of human rights, and in the use of torture in an increasing number of countries in the world". Then the General Secretary called it to "a style of thinking and of being which is a pre-requisite for furthering the unity, witness and service of the people of God according to God's purpose". One essential element of this is a determination "to be true, and live the truth". "Being human", he said, "means to uncover things, to bring them to light, to disclose them, to deprive them of their hiddenness, to bring them into consciousness".

We are called to bear witness to the light which has come into the world through our Lord Jesus Christ. At the same time, we know "the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness more than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, lest his deeds be exposed". (John 3 : 19-20).

Today we stand under God's judgement, for in our generation the darkness, deceit and inhumanity of the torture chamber have become a more wide-spread and atrocious reality than at any other time in history. No human practice is so abominable, nor so widely condemned. Yet physical and mental torture and other forms of cruel and inhuman treatment are now being applied systematically in many countries, and practically no nation can claim to be free of them.

Next year the world will be called upon to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption on December 10, 1948, by the United Nations General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The preamble to that Declaration states that "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

The WCC Nairobi Assembly has urged us to hold high this concern for justice, to work for the implementation of all the rights enunciated in the Universal Declaration, and the elimination of the causes of violations of human rights.

The struggle to abolish torture involves "work at the most basic level towards a society without unjust structures" (Nairobi Assembly, Section V Report, para. 13). Torture is most likely to occur in societies which are characterized by injustice, but it can also happen in situations where most rights are protected. In either case, the victim is most likely one who has become involved in the struggle for justice and human rights in his or her own society, one who has had the courage to voice the needs of the people.

Given the tragic dimensions of torture in our world, we urge the churches to take this thirtieth anniversary year as a special occasion to lay bare the practice of, complicity in, and the propensity to torture which exist in our nations.

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Torture is epidemic, breeds in the dark, in silence. We call upon the churches to bring its existence into the open, to break the silence, to reveal the persons and structures of our societies which are responsible for this most dehumanizing of all violations of human rights.

We recognize that there remain, even among the churches, certain differences of interpretation of human rights, and that sometimes different priorities are set for the implementation of human rights according to varying socio-economic, political and cultural contexts. But on the point of torture there can be no difference of opinion. The churches together can and must become major forces for the abolition of torture.

We therefore urge the churches to:

1. a) intensify their efforts to inform their members and the people of their nations about the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and especially of its Article 5, which reads:

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

- b) continue and intensify their efforts to cause their governments to ratify the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and on Civil and Political Rights adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly, December 16, 1966. Special efforts should be made to achieve the ratification of the "Optional Protocol" of the Covenant on Social and Political Rights by which states agree to allow to be considered communications from individuals subject to their jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation of the rights set out in that Covenant by their own state. Similarly, attention of governments should be called to the importance of ratifying specifically Article 41 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, by which a state can express its willingness to allow other nations to raise questions, through a careful procedure, about its compliance with the provisions of this Covenant, including its Article 7 which prohibits torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
  - c) inform their members and the people of their nations of the contents of the "Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment" unanimously adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly on December 9, 1975.
  - d) study and seek the application at all levels of governments of the "Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners" adopted on August 30, 1955, by the First United Nations' Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.
  - d) study and seek the application of the "Declaration of Tokyo: Guidelines for Medical Doctors concerning Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Relation to Detention and Imprisonment" adopted by the twenty-ninth World Medical Assembly in Tokyo, October 1975.
2. seek to ensure the compliance of their governments with the provisions of these important international instruments, recognizing that while the Declarations are not legally binding, they do represent a large international consensus and carry very substantial moral weight.

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3. express their solidarity with churches and people elsewhere in their struggle to have these provisions strictly applied in their own countries.
4. urge their governments to contribute positively to the current effort of the United Nations to develop a body of principles for the protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment, and to strengthen the existing procedures for the implementation of the "Standard Minimum Rules"; and of the World Health Organization to develop a "Code of Medical Ethics Relevant to the Protection of Detained Persons Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment".
5. work for the elaboration by the United Nations of a Convention on the Protection of all Persons against Torture.
6. encourage other initiatives to establish an international strategy to fight against torture and to create an efficient international machinery to ban torture.
7. ensure that law enforcement officials, members of the military and of special security branches, members of the medical profession and others be informed of the above-mentioned international standards and to press for their non-participation in torture, and their non-complicity with others directly involved.
8. work against any further international commerce in torture techniques or equipment and against the development in the scientific community of even more sophisticated techniques of physical or mental torture.
9. seek access to places of detention and interrogation centres in order to ensure that persons held there are not mistreated.
10. be especially attentive to the fact that torture most often occurs after secret detention, abduction and subsequent disappearance of victims, and see to it that special rapid and appropriate measures be taken to locate them and to provide legal protection for such persons by the competent authorities.

CHURCH OF NAZARENE  
RECOGNIZED IN HUNGARY

Geneva (EPS) - The pacifist-oriented Church of the Nazarene has been accorded full legal recognition by the Hungarian Government, under a new agreement with the State Office for Church Affairs.

The Nazarenes have agreed to perform non-combatant military service and will be drafted for medical, engineering or other non-combatant service.

The church, which has some 3,300 members in Hungary, recently amended its doctrinal and organisational statutes to make the new church-state accord possible.

The church is quoted as saying that they respect state authority and keep state laws. "We wish to fulfil our duties as citizens of the state," they said.

EPS

## THE CONFESSING COMMUNITY

A letter to the churches prepared as a result of discussions on the main theme of the 1977 Central Committee meeting.

"...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you..." Eph. 1:18

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are your fellow Christians, sent by churches from many parts of the world to meet one another here as the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches. We belong to different races and cultures. We enjoy our God-given diversity, and yet we reflect the divisions which tear our world apart. We meet from different Christian traditions. We rejoice in this enrichment, and yet we feel the pain of belonging to divided churches. Sometimes we have to struggle hard to understand one another and to express our common calling. "The Confessing Community" has been our theme which we have explored in the light of Ephesians 1:15-23, in relation to the different situations in which we stand as Christians in the world today and to the many urgent issues we have had to face during our meeting.

We have been encouraged to hear of the faith of congregations of Christians in many parts of the world who confess Christ with their hearts and their mouths, in their words and their lives. Such witness is always costly. For some even within this past year it has led to martyrdom. Some are imprisoned for their confession; others are pushed aside. Some find themselves rejected by the societies they live in; others have to resist being seduced by them. Some make their witness in the arena of public controversy; others keep the faith steadfast where public witness is restricted.

Witnessing as a Christian community we simply reflect the "good confession" made by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. (1 Tim. 6:13). He brings the hope of the Resurrection, bearing in His body the wounds of His suffering. He bears the sins of the world. He shares in the struggles of humanity. He calls His Church to witness to His victory over the "principalities and powers" and gives us strength to right against all forces of evil. He alone is the Lord, beside whom there can be no other lords, and therefore He brings under judgement all other allegiances that lay claim to our lives.

The Holy Spirit gives light to our hearts and minds to see Jesus as the Risen Lord and to recognize in the frail shape of His Church on earth the divine glory of His body. As members of this body we are nourished at the Lord's Table, and with the whole community of saints we join in a liturgy of thanksgiving and praise. In the darkest hour of despair we hear the Easter message. "The Lord is Risen". And we respond with heart and voice "He is risen indeed!" We invite you to share your response as you sing your songs of resurrection joy and give thanks to God for the gift of this Gospel.

Yet who are we to sing the song of triumph? As Christian communities we celebrate victory, but we often seem to live in defeat. We worship a living Lord, but we do not always do what he tells us. We say we will follow him, but we are afraid to go where He leads us. We claim to be signs of the Kingdom, yet often we are mere replicas of the communities around us. We are called to share in Christ's work of transforming the world, but we conform uncritically to the patterns of our societies. We are sent to announce "good news to the poor", but we close our ears to what that means for ourselves. We declare "liberty for the oppressed", but we shrink from the price of solidarity with them. We claim our liberation in Christ, but we are trapped in the network of evil. Let us cry together:

Abba, Father, set us free.

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We invite you to ask of one another some of the following questions relating to the place where you are:

How do we witness to Christ in our words, our deeds, our daily life and work?

How do we share our faith with others in our families, in our neighbourhood and throughout the world?

How is our confession of Christ contradicted within our Christian community?

What changes would it mean in the life of our congregation if we were a community fully confessing Christ?

How do we help each other to lay open our lives to Christ?

How do we help each other to respond as Christians to the dilemmas arising in our daily work?

How does our confession of Christ divide us from others? How does it unite with others?

Where do we see women and men being denied the dignity that is their heritage, and what are we as a confessing community doing about it?

We pledge ourselves to pray for one another and to share Christ's ministry of holy intercession. Such intercession is not only a means of strengthening the community of confession but its very heart-beat.

We invite your prayers:

- for those coming new into the confessing community  
that the Spirit may yield His fruit in their lives
- for those settled and complacent in their faith  
that the Spirit may stir them awake to a new vision
- for those who have left the Church feeling that it has nothing to offer them  
that Christ may still reach them through the prayers, care and witness of His Church
- for those who come to the Church trying to find their way  
that they may be received by a truly confessing community  
which leads them to Christ
- for those who suffer for the sake of the Gospel  
that they may rejoice in hope and confidence that the Lord is  
at their side
- for those who look for an easy discipleship  
that they may learn to take up the cross and follow Christ
- for those who are committed to true struggle for liberation and  
justice, peace and reconciliation  
that they may be sustained by the solidarity of the confessing  
community
- for those who are blind or indifferent to the needs of the world  
that they may learn to see the needs of others through the  
eyes of Christ

(more)

- for all communities that confess Christ  
that they may express the unity of His body, repenting of all that  
hides Him from the world
- for all who confess Christ as Lord  
that their words may truly describe their deeds, their deeds  
fully enact their love and their love faithfully reflect their Lord.

Lord God, we pray that you will open the eyes of our hearts to the vision of a world renewed by your Spirit, open our mouths to name the name of Jesus and open our lives to the converting power of Christ. Together we celebrate Him as the risen and victorious Lord. Help us to worship, to witness and to work in joyful anticipation of the final victory when Christ shall gather all things together in the glory and claim the nations as his own. For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory now and in all eternity.

AMEN

WCC MOURNS PASSING OF  
CICARWS DIRECTOR MURIEL WEBB

Geneva (EPS) - Mrs Muriel Webb, director of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service (CICARWS) of the World Council of Churches, since 1974, passed away in Greenwich, Connecticut, on Sunday night, August 7, at the age of 64. She had left Geneva at the end of July for medical treatment in her hometown.

Dr Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches said the World Council and its member churches mourn the death of a great humanitarian and committed church worker. He eulogized Mrs Webb as an international church relief leader whose "quickness of perception and action, courage and compassion" were ever present in her work when emergencies had to be met to save people's lives and to make plans to rebuild shattered communities.

Mrs Webb had spent most of her working life in church service programmes, much of it related to the ecumenical movement. She was to have retired from the WCC staff next January.

Born in 1913 in New York City, Mrs Webb held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Connecticut College and majored in community organization at the Columbia University School of Social Work. After social and community work in Harlem and Brooklyn, Mrs Webb joined the national staff of the Episcopal Church where she worked from 1947-71. She had a wide variety of responsibilities ranging from community development, health and welfare services, youth, race questions and inter-church aid.

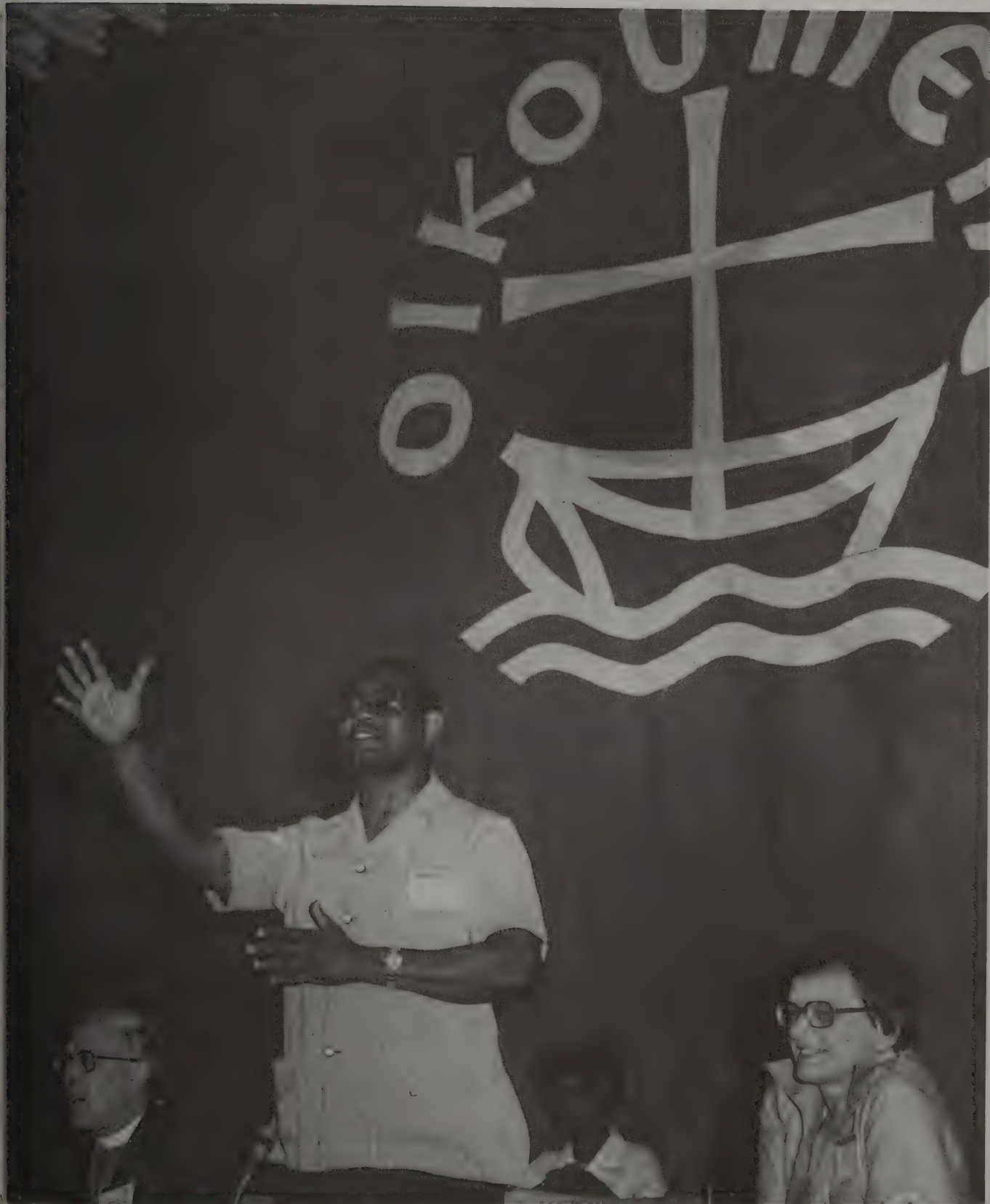
She was a delegate to the United Nations Conference on Migration in 1957, drawing on ten years of experience in refugee resettlement work in the Episcopal Church and as head of the Church World Service committee on Immigration and Refugees. Mrs Webb chaired at different times the National Council of Churches' Church World Service Committee, Vietnam Christian Service and had been a member of the Presiding Bishops' Commission for World Relief, and of the Division of Overseas Ministries Committee of the National Council of Churches.

She was the widow of Robert M. Webb and leaves two children.

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# photo oikoumene



## REFLECTIONS ON THE 1977 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE W.C.C.

The 134-member Central Committee of the World Council of Churches met at the Ecumenical Centre, Geneva, from 28 July to 6 August.

(1999) The members of the Central Committee, observers, advisers, journalists and staff members are seen at work in the main hall of the Ecumenical Centre. The main theme of this session of the Central Committee was "The Confessing Community".

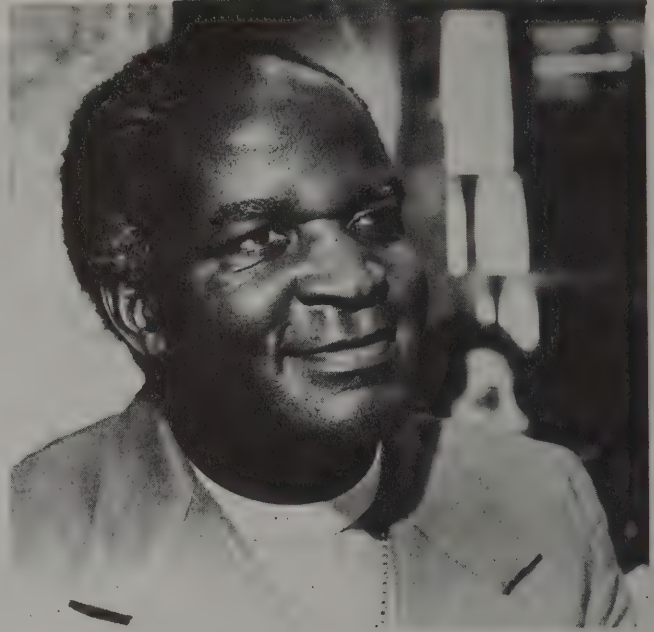


2001

(2000) The four speakers who introduced the main theme are seen in a Press Conference. They are (l to r): Metropolitan Hazim (Lebanon); Professor Josef Smolik (Czechoslovakia); Ms Dorinda Sampath (Trinidad) and James Wallis (USA).

(2001) One of the work groups studying the main theme, "The Confessing Community", out of which was produced a letter to the churches.

(2002) Various executive staff appointments were announced during the week. Among these was Constance Parvey (centre), with responsibility for the study of "The Community of women and men in the church". She is seen with the heads of the units which coordinate this study, Brigalia Bam (left) and Lukas Vischer (right).



2005

(2003) Adrian Wijemanne (centre) new general manager of the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (EDCS) is seen with Fred Bronkema (right) appointed to represent the society in the USA, and Dr Philip Potter, general secretary of the WCC.

Since the last meeting of the Central Committee in 1976 various committee members have been given new responsibilities in their own churches. Among these figure:

(2004) Archbishop Karekin II, vice-moderator of the Central Committee, who has been consecrated Coadjutor-Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church under the jurisdiction of the See of Cilicia.

(2005) Bishop Josiah Kibira (Tanzania) who was elected as the sixth president of the Lutheran World Federation at the recent world assembly in Dar es Salaam.

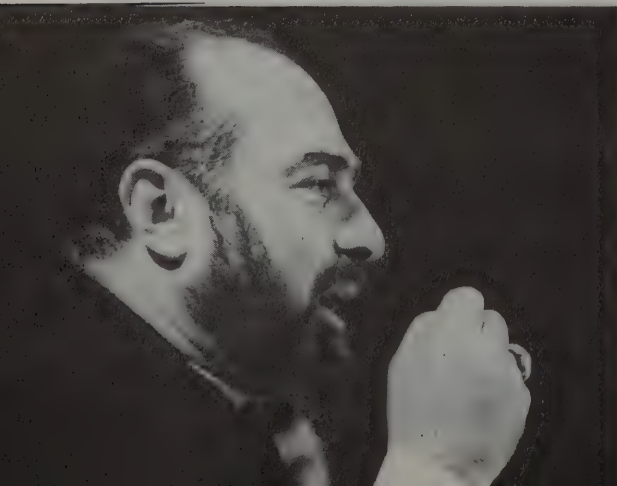
(2006) Some members of the Central Committee presided over services in churches in Geneva area during the weekend.

(2007) An exhibition of photographs by the Brazilian Sebastiao Salgado was on show during the committee meeting. The exhibition was entitled "Anger in Africa"



2007

2004







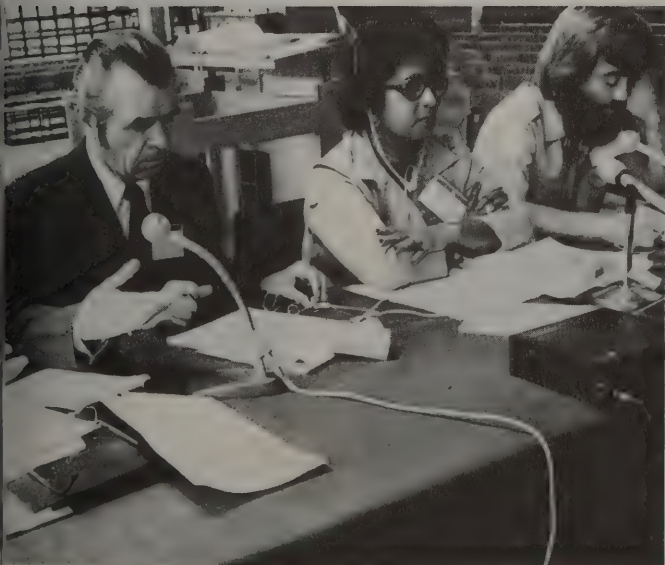
2006



2003



2002

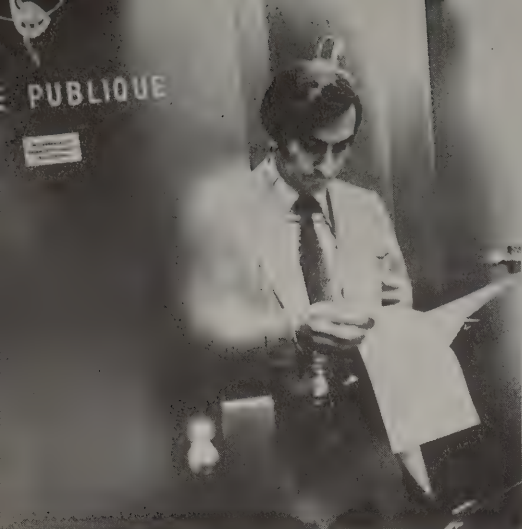


2000



1999

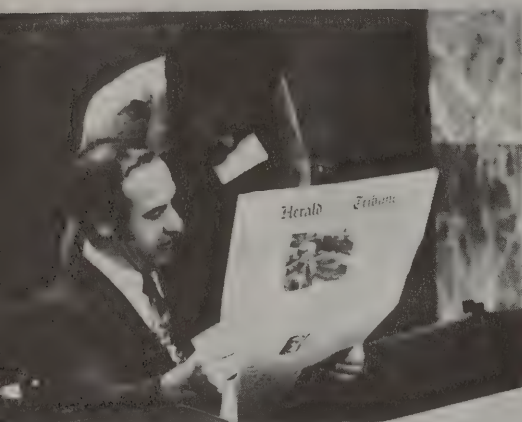




1995



1995



1994

### BEHIND THE SCENES

A meeting of the Central Committee, with 134 delegates in session, together with a hundred or so advisers and observers and more than 120 journalists, has always its "unseen" moments. The nine-day meeting means intense periods of reflection, times of decision and times for personal encounters. Our camera captures some of these moments.

(1992) Every decision needs intense study of the documents.

(1993) Discussion in small groups is often the source for new ideas.

(1994) Keeping up with what goes on in the world is essential for participants in WCC meetings.

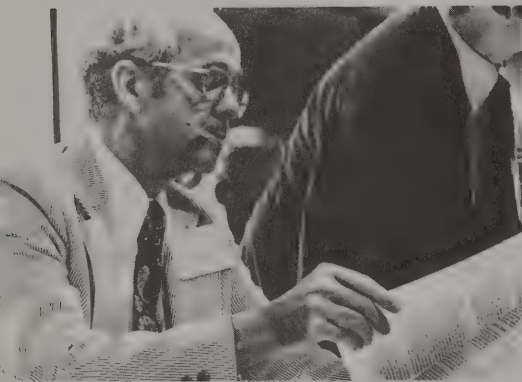
(1995) Waiting for advice from his church on how a vote should be cast.

(1996) A short siesta to recuperate for the next session.

(1997) Accidents always happen! Looks of surprise as milk crashes to the floor during the coffee break.

(1998) A game with a child helps relaxation.

Photos: WCC



1992



1999

1999



1998





# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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18th August 1977

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## SQUATTER TOWN DESTRUCTION DRAWS SOUTH AFRICAN ANGER

Cape Town (EPS) - A demolition programme, begun on 9 August, to destroy the shanty homes of up to 26,000 black people living in Modderdam and adjoining squatter settlements outside Cape Town has drawn widespread anger and determined resistance within South Africa.

According to press reports squatters set fire to shanty homes to protest the clearance operation and sang hymns and protest songs into the night as bulldozers razed the area. Police fired teargas repeatedly to disperse the crowd of squatters and about 100 white sympathizers, including clerics, members of the South African Institute for Race Relations, the women's Black Sash movement, the Progress Reform Party, the Civil Rights League and Women for Peace. Three white clergymen, including an Anglican priest, the Rev. David Russell, were arrested for lying down in the path of the bulldozers. Homeless squatters who remained in the area crouched under plastic sheets and debris as gale-force winds lashed the area.

Authorities say the shanty towns are illegal, that many of the black people have no permits to be in the area and that the site is a health risk. But the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev. William Burnett, said the shanty town demolitions "will breed deeper resentment in the hearts of black people and evoke anger from outside our borders".

One immediate expression of anger came from the Transkei, the so-called independent black "homeland", that South African authorities claim is the rightful home of most of the black families living in Modderdam.

The Transkei's foreign minister Mr Digby Koyona rejected the idea of South Africa dumping its unwanted citizens on his country and said justification for diplomatic ties with South Africa were becoming more and more questionable.

The squatters' crisis is created by the apartheid system itself. Those facing eviction now are only part of some 250,000 squatters and a total of about 400,000 homeless people on the Cape Peninsula, struggling to create a family life in makeshift camps, rather than starving on government reserves or living in single men's hostels, separated from wives and children.

Pleas to the government from community groups for basic facilities in the townships have been refused. The latest plea came from the Cape Flats Committee for interim accommodation supported by the Western Province Council of Churches. The committee asked for tents to provide shelter for the people whose homes were bulldozed.

EPS

THE NEXT ISSUE OF EPS WILL APPEAR ON 8 SEPTEMBER



ANGLICAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
PROMOTES ECUMENISM

Toronto (EPS) - "A true understanding of ecumenism cannot be limited to inter-church or inter-Christian affairs", says a statement from the Anglican Church of Canada's 28th General Synod meeting just finished in Toronto. "The scope of God's love includes all of creation..., people of every faith or no faith."

In a policy statement for 1978-80, drafted by the Synod's inter-church relations committee "ecumenical work is to consider increasingly the multi-cultural and multi-faith nature of our country".

Anglican-Roman Catholic relations are also described in the statement. Bishops of both churches have conferred frequently over healing the breach occasioned by the Reformation in the the 16th Century. But neither church sees this happening before the end of the century.

The ordination of women is a key issue in the Anglican-Roman Catholic discussions. The Canadian Anglicans' last General Synod approved women's ordination in 1975 and despite fears to the contrary there has been no widespread resignation of church members.

The Synod report also noted that while negotiations on union between the Anglican Church and the United Church of Canada were broken off in 1975, contacts between the churches have continued at various levels. One hotly debated form of contact is the shared ministry. There are now 60 of them in Canada. The Inter-Church Committee urged that they should continue to be initiated and that "recognition of the ministers of other denominations" be treated as an urgent matter.

EPS

SODEPAX TO HOLD SERIES OF  
CONFERENCES IN THE USA

Geneva (EPS) - SODEPAX, the joint World Council of Churches and Roman Catholic organization for promoting third world development is to hold a series of conferences on "The Moral Implications of the New International Economic Order for US Food and Farm Policies". The first two conferences will take place in Chicago, Illinois, on 9 September and in Peoria, Illinois, on the following day. Speakers will include Mr Robert Bergland, Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture, Mr Neville Kanakarathne, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the USA, and Ms Jane Blewett, chairperson of the Subcommittee on the New International Economic Order of the Interreligious Task Force on US Food Policy.

A third conference will be held at a later date to reflect on the ethical implications of the issues brought out at the first two meetings.

The conferences are being organized under the leadership of Professor James E. Will, director of the Peace Institute of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois. Participating groups include the Chicago Church Federation, Church Women United, the Illinois Conference of Churches Peace Consortium, the World Without War Council, the Catholic Theological Union and several Protestant theological schools, Bread for the World, the National Assembly of Women Religious, special ministries of various church denominations, and religious action centres.

EPS

THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN  
SERVICE MEETS IN CUBA

Havana (EPS) - The Women's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist Church in Cuba held its fifty-third annual conference at the Methodist Church, Vedado, Havana, at the beginning of August. The theme of the meeting was "Deepen your work in the kingdom", with the word kingdom being interpreted as meaning not only the creation but the community and neighbourhood also.

The meeting counted the privilege of having two guests from overseas. Mrs Rose Catchings, Secretary of the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, USA, who spoke in the opening service, and Mrs Hilda Fuster, one of the first presidents of the society who now lives in the US.

Some 150 delegates attended the event representing the 1,000 members that the society has on the island. Also taking part were prominent leaders of the Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

The Women's Society of Christian Service has four fields of work, education, spiritual life, literature and community service. Among the topics discussed was that of divorce, one of the most serious problems affecting family and home life in Cuba today.

EPS

BAPTIST ALLIANCE OFFERS \$50,000  
FOR THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN USSR

Miami Beach, Florida (EPS) - The General Council of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has designated \$110,251 from its relief fund for interchurch aid for the theological education of ministerial students speaking one or more of the Slavic languages in Eastern Europe.

A total of \$50,000 of this amount was "reserved for an institution of theological training in the USSR, to be paid to the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians/Baptists promptly upon request after the necessary permissions are obtained from the authorities for the opening of such an institution".

In a news release from the Baptists' General Council meeting last month, Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the BWA, said that more than \$68,000 has already been expended in two attempts to start a seminary in Russia. A total of \$44,472.78 was spent in 1922-23 for establishment of a seminary at St Petersburg (now Leningrad). The school operated for several years and educated about 400 men. An additional \$24,000 was remitted to Moscow for a theological school opened there, with a 40-year lease, in late 1928. The school was closed and the lease cancelled a short time later, but perhaps as many as 250 men received training there.

Approximately two thirds of the 1,172,000 Baptists in Europe live and witness in the eastern section. However, most churches are led by lay persons without formal theological training.

A Bible Correspondence School is currently operated out of Baptist Union headquarters in Moscow. In addition, a limited number of ministerial students are permitted to attend schools outside the USSR.

EPS



WCC MESSAGE TO THE  
MORAVIAN CHURCH

Geneva (EPS) - On 13 August the Moravian Church celebrated the 250th anniversary of its "spiritual birth" in Herrenhut (German Democratic Republic).

Two and a half centuries ago Herrenhut was the scene of a gathering of Christians from all confessions. It included people from separatists and sectarian movements at the time. For more than a year they did not take communion together because of their doctrinal differences. It was only after the patient efforts made by Count Zinzendorf and the Elders that on 13 August 1727 they took communion together for the first time and the Church of the Moravian Brethren was born.

On the occasion of this 250th anniversary the Central Committee of the WCC sent a fraternal message to the Moravian Church, the text of which follows here:

"The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches sends greetings to the Evangelische Brüder Unität on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Moravian Church at Herrenhut. We realize that the Moravian Church inherited the remarkable ecumenical tradition linked with the names of Amos Comenius and Daniel Jablonski. The World Council has special reason to remember the spiritual contribution of Comenius. For he formulates a plan to form a permanent ecumenical council of churches which resembles in many respects the plan to form a World Council of Churches adopted by the churches three centuries later.

"In the 18th century the Moravian Church pioneered in the ecumenical realm. Count Zinzendorf had a truly catholic concern for all the churches and a truly universal concern for the salvation of men of all races. So we find direct or indirect influences emanating from Herrenhut in many of the movements which have paved the way for the ecumenical movement of our time. This is particularly true with regard to other Christian youth movements and the missionary movement. And we should not forget what the Moravian Church has done to help Christians to pray for each other and for the different churches. Zinzendorf believed that in spite of their divisions Christians could manifest "the holy harmony of all times and regions in adoration of the Lamb".

We hope therefore that the Lord of the Church will bless the Moravian Church in the future as He has done in the past."

EPS

SWEDISH YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE  
IN CUBAN SUMMER CAMP

Havana (EPS) - A group of Swedish young people from various denominations participated recently in the annual summer camp held at the Baptist Church Marianao, Havana. After the camp the Swedish young people and some Cubans formed a brigade to do a week's voluntary work on construction projects before touring the island.

The camp and the ecumenical visit was arranged by COEBAC, the worker student Baptist coordination of Cuba. COEBAC is a relatively new organization which groups together mostly young people from the Eastern and Western Baptist Conventions of Cuba. Its objectives are conscientization and ecumenical work.

The work is under the direction of Rev. Uxmal Diaz and its main nationwide activity is the summer camp, which besides providing recreation in an ecumenical atmosphere tries to help people understand what their social responsibility as Christians is, and the actual needs of a commitment to society.

EPS

BAPTISTS SPEAK OUT  
ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Miami Beach, Florida (EPS) - Speaking out on religious liberty and other matters of common spiritual and moral concern is both the duty and the privilege of the world's 33 million Baptists, says a message to the churches adopted by the General Council of the Baptist World Alliance meeting here last month.

"Our primary purpose is to bring men everywhere into a redemptive and transforming relationship with Christ, but we believe also that we are to seek to involve all Christians, individually and collectively, in bringing the Christian Gospel in all its fullness to bear on every aspect of human society."

The wide-ranging message affirms a belief in dignity and justice for every individual and urges delegates to the Helsinki II Conference in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to "promote further the fulfilment of all the articles of the Helsinki agreement".

The statement adds: "We affirm our commitment to religious liberty. We deplore persecution of Christians and others by government agencies or religious bodies wherever it occurs. The Baptist World Alliance General Council voices grave concern and charges its officers to give all possible aid and support to persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ."

EPS

BARBADOS CONSULTATION ON  
LATIN AMERICAN INDIANS

Geneva (EPS) - The second meeting sponsored by the World Council of Churches Programme to Combat Racism on the situation of indigenous Indians in Latin America was held in Barbados from 18-28 July.

The Barbados declaration of 1971, following the first consultation, exposed the situation of Indians and compelled anthropologists, missionary societies and governments to change their policies towards the Indians in the continent.

Since 1971 a lot has happened in Latin America. Dynamic liberation organizations have sprung up in some countries. Meetings of indigenous people have been organized, at local national and international levels.

However, while some groups have excelled in organizing themselves, others have fallen victim to land speculators and transnational companies. Some governments have set up specific offices to deal with Indian issues and segments of the Roman Catholic Church have taken a stand supporting the Indian cause.

In light of all these developments, the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism called the second meeting in Barbados. This time there were not only anthropologists present. Indians themselves participated in a greater number than non-Indians. It was hoped that the presence of Indians would help the anthropologists to write a second Barbados declaration. But the Indians decided to make the declaration of their own accord, addressed to other Indians. The full text of the declaration will be published in the next issue of EPS.

EPS



## HASTE ON AUSTRALIAN URANIUM DECISION NOT JUSTIFIED YET

Sydney (EPS) - The Australian people have not yet been given adequate reasons to justify haste in reaching decisions about the mining and export of uranium in their country, says the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

At its meeting in Sydney last month, the Council Executive reaffirmed its call of November last for a five-year moratorium on the mining and exporting of uranium to allow sufficient time for public debate and for further research into the risks and possible alternative energy sources.

In a separate move, the ACC Executive agreed to send a delegation to the Australian Mining Industry Council. The delegation will suggest to the Mining Council that "the mining companies would perform a valuable service to the community if they were to offer to observe a moratorium until: the rights of Aboriginal communities so affected have been safeguarded to their satisfaction; acceptable procedures exist for the safe management of radioactive waste; and effective international safeguards are established to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

EPS

## HOW TO BUILD 24 OFFICES WITH A SHORTFALL OF Sfr 1 MILLION

Geneva (EPS) - The decision of the last Central Committee meeting of the WCC to add one floor of 24 offices to the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, just as a provisional shortfall of more than Sfr 1 million on the WCC's 1978 budget had been announced, caused a few raised eyebrows. Some wondered if the financial administrators of the WCC were taking literally the biblical saying that the left hand should not know what the right hand is doing!

However, it is a fact that the Ecumenical Centre is presently bursting at the seams. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), which along with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches has offices in the building, needs an increasing number of offices. The Development Commission which was previously housed in an annex, has now transferred to the main building, and the Theological Education Fund recently moved its offices from London to Geneva. Even though the WCC has recently restructured and rationalized its work and therefore needs less office space, these office transfers and the expansion of the LWF create the need for another floor.

The financing of this project has no effect on the WCC's budget. It will be covered by the sale of a piece of land, the proceeds of which can only be used for construction purposes. This was the condition required by the churches who originally financed the land purchase.

EPS

LWUM MEMORIAL  
FUND TOPS £10,000

London (EPS) - A special fund to support the training of Ugandan clergy and laity, founded to honour the memory of the martyred Ugandan Anglican Archbishop Lwum, has now topped 10,000 pounds sterling.

The announcement was made on 9 August by the Church Missionary Society. CMS launched the fund along with the Archbishop of York and St John's College, Nottingham, within a few weeks of the Ugandan archbishop's death last February.

The training supported by the fund was a deeply felt concern in the late archbishop's ministry. To ensure the work grows, bursaries and other links will be developed between the churches in Uganda and the United Kingdom.

Already Bible commentaries and other theological books are being sent to the theological college at Nukono and there are plans to supply all Ugandan clergy.

EPS

## CORRECTION

In Ecumenical Press Service No. 23 there was an error in the STATEMENT ON TORTURE adopted by the Central Committee meeting. Please replace the sixth paragraph by the following corrected text.

"The struggle to abolish torture involves "work at the most basic level towards a society without unjust structures" (Nairobi Assembly, Section V Report, para. 13). Torture is most likely to occur in societies which are characterized by injustice, but it can also happen in situations where most rights are protected. While torture is sometimes applied to common prisoners, the victims are most likely persons who have become involved in the struggle for justice and human rights in their own societies, people who have had the courage to voice the needs of the people. In the face of political opposition, rulers of an increasing number of countries have decreed emergency laws in which the basic guarantee of habeas corpus is suspended. Detainees are forbidden contact with a defence lawyer, their families, religious leaders or others, creating conditions propitious for torture. Under the pretext of "national security" many states today subordinate human dignity to the selfish interests of those in power."



# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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WARC HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS  
FOCUS ON SOUTH AFRICA, KOREA

St Andrews, Scotland (EPS) - Commitment to a major five-year thrust on human rights in all programme units of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches was made during the first two-day session of the Alliance's 22-member Executive Committee meeting here 28-29 August. The top policy-making body of the Alliance expressed deep concern about violations of human rights in South Africa and in South Korea, and voted to bring these concerns to the attention of governments in both countries and to rally member churches' support for human rights legislation in all countries. It urged cooperation with secular human rights movements, with Amnesty International and with human rights concerns of people of other faiths.

The committee appealed to the South Korean Government "to release all prisoners of conscience" and urged the South African Government to implement Article 9 of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (prohibiting detention without trial). The committee protested the high death rate of those in detention. It also asked member churches to encourage their governments to join a general boycott of South Africa at the level of arms trade, economic and financial support.

The Alliance's president, Dr James McCord, was instructed to bring to South African Prime Minister Vorster's attention the need to find an acceptable solution to the expropriation of the Federal Theological Seminary of 1974 which has encumbered the operations of the school ever since it was forced to move from Alice.

The Alliance president, James McCord, was further asked to issue a call to prayer to the constituency to express the organization's "deep disquiet at all that threatens the survival of humanity, and to urge the churches to combat, according to the means at their disposal and in ways most appropriate to their respective situations, hunger, poverty, war and the deterioration of the environment."

The committee approved in principle the suggestion for an information and communication centre through which member churches might offer, for the intercession and action of other member churches, cases of severe human rights violations.

In other action the Executive Committee resolved that new theological studies on the covenant, the priesthood of all believers, and on human rights should be undertaken and agreed to the opening of bi-lateral dialogues with Anglicans. A statement on Christian unity was approved for publication pending editorial changes.

In response to concerns that there is a "serious underrepresentation of women on the Executive Committee" itself (there are now 3 women on the 22-member group) the Committee accepted a recommendation "that every precaution be taken to ensure adequate representation of women in every aspect of the life of the Alliance". Any imbalance in the representation of women and youth on the Alliance's Departmental committees is to be corrected, the Committee said.

EPS



CANADIAN SYNOD TACKLES  
ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH

Calgary (EPS) - A report on death and dying, and the right to terminate life, produced some of the liveliest debates at the Canadian Anglican General Synod's twenty-eighth meeting, held here from 11-18 August.

The news story which brought media people to this city in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains was a report entitled "Considerations concerning the Passage from Life to Death", which had been released in advance. Four paragraphs in the interim report concerned "the severely, neurologically defective new-born infant which may not be human". Unfortunately both public and media assumed the report was talking about retarded children, which it was not.

Following debate the task force responsible for the writing of the report was instructed to rewrite "with a clear emphasis of the Christian concern for the sanctity of human life".

Archbishop Edward W. Scott, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and Moderator of the World Council of Churches Central Committee, addressed the Synod about the results of a personal survey he conducted with some 100 people to discover the most pressing issues facing the Church.

The Canadian Primate said the Synod had great responsibility to help achieve a deeper consciousness of faith, a deeper and constant analysis of world realities which must be faced and a deliberate attempt to analyse the particular Canadian context and to develop strategies which respond to it effectively.

Other reports which produced lively debate covered: French-English relations, artificial insemination by a donor, native affairs and poverty, public and social responsibility. Speaking to these last two concerns the National Task Force on the economy, urged the church to support measures which would bring about a drastic change in the composition of output in favour of those goods and services needed by the poor, and a much more equal distribution of income and wealth.

A hard look at the employment practices of the Anglican Church was taken by a special committee. Under-currents of the failure to practise Christian love in the context of fair employment practices led to the formation of the task force. It listed twelve main points that should be in every labour contract: pay, hours of work, restrictions on outside employment, leave, travel, training and development, accommodation, pension, grievance procedures, appraisal and review, job description, termination procedures. Clergy are workaholics, said the report. Parish workers and priests frequently claim they cannot take a day off. They are too busy.

The Synod voted to meet again in three years instead of the usual two. Economic measures were given as the reason. This year's meeting preceded that of the United Church of Canada, with the two denominations using the same facilities.

EPS

## BARBADOS II DECLARATION

## DOCUMENTATION

## INTRODUCTION

From 18 to 28 July 1977 thirty-four people (20 Indians and 14 non-Indians) met at the University of the West Indies in Bridgetown, Barbados. They had come from Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Guatemala and USA. Most of the non-Indians were anthropologists.

Six years ago some 20 anthropologists had a Consultation of their own also in Barbados. That Consultation, now called Barbados I, had been jointly sponsored by the Ethnological Institute of the University of Berne (Switzerland) and the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches. Barbados I issued a Declaration known as the "Barbados Declaration" and produced a report on "The Situation of the Indian in South America". The Declaration and the report challenged anthropologists, missionary societies and governments and compelled them to take a critical look at the work they were undertaking among Indians.

Since then the situation of Latin American Indians has changed. Dynamic Indian emancipation movements have arisen in some countries; meetings have been organized at local, national, regional and world levels. Governments have shown some interest and segments of the Roman Catholic Church in Latin America have lifted up the torch, particularly in Brazil. The time was therefore ripe for the second Barbados. Conveners of Barbados II planned a meeting of anthropologists with Indian participation. The response of invited Indians was so good that what came out became an Indian Consultation with the participation of anthropologists.

Indians and anthropologists began by getting to know each other. The former also needed time to sort out their differences as they came from countries with the most varied indigenous policies. It was agreed that time should be set aside for Indians to meet. It was from these meetings that the main thrust of Barbados II emerged. While in Barbados I anthropologists addressed themselves to colleagues, missionary societies and governments, Barbados II Declaration is a document of Indians addressed to Indians. They are now telling friends and foes alike that they are protagonists of their own destiny. First of all they must fight for survival as a group. To this end ownership of land is of paramount importance. Secondly they must liberate themselves from physical and cultural domination. Thirdly they must strive to achieve unity along and across national boundaries.

## TEXT OF THE DECLARATION

## Brother and Sister Indians:

We Indians in America are subjected to domination of two kinds: physical domination and cultural domination.

The main form taken by the physical domination is the expropriation of our land. This plundering began with the European invasion and has continued right up to the present time. Along with our land they also snatched our natural resources - the forests, the water, the minerals, the oil. What land has been left to us has been further divided, national and international frontiers have been drawn, our peoples have been isolated and divided, attempts have been made to sow conflict among us.

(more)



The physical domination is economic domination. We are exploited when we work for non-Indians who pay us less than our labour is worth. They also exploit us through trade, because they buy up our products cheaply (crops, crafts etc.) and sell to us at a high price. This domination is not confined to the local or national level; it is international. The big transnational corporations come seeking our land, our resources, our labour, our goods and are supported in their efforts by powerful and privileged groups in non-Indian society.

Cultural domination can be said to exist when it has been thoroughly implanted in the Indian mind that western culture, or the culture of the dominators, is the only one and represents the highest level of development, whereas their own culture is not a culture at all, but the lowest level of backwardness out of which they must rise. It follows directly from this that education is a means of dividing our people.

Cultural domination does not permit us our own forms of cultural expression, or else it misinterprets and distorts them.

Cultural domination is achieved through:

Indian policies, which include the process of integration or acculturation carried out by various national and international institutions, religious missions etc.

The formal education system, which basically teaches us white superiority and our own supposed inferiority, thus preparing the way for easier exploitation.

The mass communications media which are instrumental in spreading the most serious misconceptions about the resistance offered by the Indian peoples to this cultural domination.

As a result of this domination our people is divided because they live in three distinct situations:

1. Groups which have remained relatively isolated and have preserved their own cultural patterns.
2. Groups which have preserved a large part of their own culture but are directly dominated by the capitalist system.
3. The section of the population which has been deindianized by integrationist forces and have lost their own cultural schemes in exchange for limited economic advantages.

For the first group, the immediate problem is survival as a group; it is essential that their lands should be guaranteed to them.

The second group is dominated physically and economically; for them the first essential is to regain control of their own resources.

The immediate problem for the third group is to free themselves from the cultural domination they are suffering under and recover their own identity and their own culture.

In conclusion, the problems of our people can be summarized as follows:

1. A situation of cultural and physical domination, ranging from subjection to a white or creole minority to the danger of actual extinction in countries where they represent only a small percentage of the population.
2. The American Indian peoples are divided within and among themselves as a result of policies of integration, education, development, western religious systems, economic conditions and national frontiers.

(more)

Given the present situation of our people, and to set the initial direction in our struggle for liberation, the following main objective is indicated:

To achieve the unity of the Indian people, considering that the fundamental element in achieving that unity is their historical and territorial position in relation to the social structures and system of government of the national states, in as far as our people share fully or partially in those structures; and through that unity, to take up the process of our history once more and try to put an end to the chapter of colonialism.

In order to reach the above objectives the following strategies are proposed:

- A. We must form an authentic political organization of our own with the movement of liberation as its objective;
- B. We must develop a clear, consistent ideology accessible to the whole population;
- C. We must find a method of working which will mobilize a large section of the population;
- D. We must identify a unifying element running through the movement of liberation from start to finish;
- E. We must preserve and reinforce internal forms of communication, the language of each group, and at the same time create a means of communication between peoples of different languages, while preserving basic cultural patterns, especially in the education of each group;
- F. We must reflect among ourselves and define the forms of support that can be given internationally.

The following may be helpful as a means of implementing the above-mentioned strategies:

- A. The political organization can be based on traditional organizations as well as newer, more modern ones.
- B. The ideology must be based on historical analysis.
- C. Initially the method of working can be study of history in order to situate and explain the present situation of domination.
- D. The unifying element must be our own culture; this is of fundamental importance in order to create consciousness of belonging to a particular ethnic group and the American Indian people.

Barbados, 28 July 1977

Translated from the Spanish  
WCC Language Service



REFORMED WORLD ALLIANCE  
MARKS CENTENNIAL AT ST ANDREWS

St Andrews, Scotland (EPS) - In the picturesque setting of ancient St Andrews University, amidst reminders of John Knox's stand against the Roman Catholic Church of the day, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches marked its 100th Anniversary with a consultation which highlighted significant advances toward a common theological understanding with the Roman Catholic Church, and renewed commitment for universal human rights.

Some 183 men and women, lay and ordained, from 40 countries, participated in the 22-28 August consultation which was convened in place of a larger world assembly. This choice was made for financial reasons and a growing awareness of the need for developing a clear Christian witness through "new and simplified life styles". The Alliance, constituted in London in 1875 held its first assembly in Edinburgh two years later. It now has 143 member churches in 80 countries.

The keynote address on the consultation theme "The Glory of God and the Future of Man" was given by Dr James I. McCord, president of Princeton, NJ, Theological Seminary, who was elected president of the World Alliance succeeding William P. Thompson, Stated Clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA and a member of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee.

In his address, Dr McCord countered some current theological trends by affirming that "however thoroughly the transcendent God may have been replaced by the religion of humanity, the old theme of the Glory of God still abides".

"It serves to correct social optimism by remembering the fact of sin and corruption which keep even the best designed schemes from attaining full success...and it balances social pessimism by noting that sin itself is not ultimate and carries seeds for its own destruction."

Consultation participants obtained a first glimpse of the report of the seven-year dialogue between the Alliance and the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity which will be submitted to the responsible authorities of both church bodies.

The two co-chairmen (Kilian McDonnell, OSB for the Roman Catholic Church, and Dr David Willis, for the Reformed Churches) point out that "while there are certainly remaining differences of a substantial nature, our work evidences a remarkable series of convergencies and agreements".

At a press conference Professor Willis and Msgr Charles Moeller, the Secretary of the Vatican Secretariat, said there was substantial agreement on such points as the Lordship of Christ over Church and the world, the "real presence of Christ" in the Eucharist and the Apostolic tradition.

A workshop on human rights, held as part of the consultation, recommended that studies be made on how the churches can serve "dehumanized" people in society, protest "prophetically" against inhuman acts, and participate in the constitutional process of translating human rights into civil rights and positive laws. Dr Jürgen Moltmann of Tübingen, Germany, stressed that the right to employment be recognized as a human right and be incorporated into national constitutions. This suggestion was not accepted however by the Alliance's Executive Committee.

Elected with Dr McCord as president were three vice-presidents: Dr Karoly Toth, of the Reformed Church in Hungary, the Rev. Samuel Habib, General Secretary of the Evangelical Church in Egypt, and Dr Chung Hyun Ro, an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Korea. Mrs Jackie Mattonen, an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the United States, was elected chairman of the Alliance's Department of Cooperation and Witness, and Professor Jan Lochman of Basel University became chairman of the Department of Theology.

NEW EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION  
AND EVANGELISM IN ZAIRE

Mukamba, Zaire (EPS) - Difficulties posed by the government returning church schools it had earlier nationalized provided one of the main topics of discussion at the August meeting of the National Synod of the Church of Christ in Zaire (CCZ) held on the shores of Lake Mukamba in Eastern Kasai.

The return to the CCZ of the church schools which the state had nationalized for two years still poses many problems for the Protestant churches in Zaire. Bishop Itofo Bokeleale, president of the CCZ reminded Synod members that the selection of new staff for the education system was now of prime importance. Regret was expressed that there is no joint education programme between the Protestant communities in Zaire.

On marriage, the Synod supported monogamy as "the only form of Christian marriage". It decided to accept polygamists in order to educate them, but polygamists are not to hold ecclesiastical responsibilities.

The National Synod was "deeply concerned" about the unfortunate consequences of the "Shaba war" especially the survivors and needy. A special mission was appointed to visit the region for first-hand information. Protestant communities were urged to sympathize with refugees and help.

Parish life was another subject before the synod, under the theme of "the parish as a centre of brotherly love". Professor Elonda Efele, the synodal chaplain, urged the representatives of the Protestant communities to stop the parish in Zaire being a social gathering and make it again what it was in the early centuries of the Church, a spiritual family where the members know each other and meet at brotherly love feasts. "It is at joyful meals, in the traditional African family that members may deepen their mutual acquaintance," said Professor Efele.

He also expressed regret that in Zaire the church spent too much time on administrative matters, disputes and unjustified journeys. "Let us use the time which we spend quarrelling amongst ourselves to proclaim the Lordship of Christ and his reign of love and peace," he declared.

The synod heard this appeal: it asked the Protestant communities to promote a kind of evangelism which is concerned with the whole person, open to the many facets of Christian life. It was recommended that each Protestant church in Zaire should organize at least twice a year an evangelism campaign which would allow Christians to develop their gifts and use them within their respective parishes. In addition, nine large campaigns are planned for 1978 at the regional level and a national congress in 1979 which will be devoted to evangelism.

Concerned about the consequences of repeated and often unwished for pregnancies on the mother's health the synod supported the organization of parish seminars on family planning, while reminding parents that according to Scripture, "children are a blessing and a joy".

The synod called for information seminars on planned parenthood and sex education in bible camps, especially help school girls avoid "increasing sterility and death", due to abortion attempts. Local parishes should encourage better dialogue between parents and children through "family meetings".

Preparations for the centenary of Protestantism in Zaire, to be celebrated next year, were also furthered at this synod. There are plans to build a "centenary temple" seating 3000 and to set up a "centenary fund" to help the underprivileged. The CCZ includes more than 50 "communities" (churches) from the Protestant tradition throughout Zaire.



DAYSPRING YOUTH DISCOVER  
NEW LIFE ON OLD GROUND

Geneva (EPS) - They discussed everything from the Holy Spirit to homosexuality, with everyone from Irish bishops to sculptresses and community workers, nuns and politicians. They listened to organ recitals, prayed all night, attended barn dances and held hands together on the beach - all 1,200 of them.

The remarkable event was an ecumenical youth assembly called Dayspring, organized by the British Council of Churches. It was held from 13-20 August in the Welsh town of St Davids - an historic centre for Celtic Christianity, made famous by the patron saint of Wales who founded a monastery there in the 6th century.

"You are treading (and sleeping!) here on sacred ground," said the Rev. Noel Davies, general secretary of the Council of Churches for Wales, in his welcoming message to participants.

The young people were conscious of that. They attended an opening service among the floodlit ruins of St Davids' ancient bishop's palace, and listened to a more recent member of the Church's episcopacy issue his challenge. The speaker was the Right Rev. Colin Winter, bishop-in-exile of Namibia and Damaraland, who called for British Christians to get involved in the political realm and help rid their country of elitism, greed and stagnation at home and injustice abroad in dealing with the Third World. Bishop Winter urged the young people to develop "prayers of action" and to discover Jesus among the poor and oppressed.

Apart from this opening ceremony, and the closing service, when delegates formed a giant circle (on nearby Whitesands Beach), most of Dayspring's ten days was spent in seminars, workshops, and small groups. Discussions covered a bewildering variety of topics: the Welsh language struggle, the charismatic movement, feminist theology, pastoral work, aid and development, Irish philosophy and urban ministry.

Regular workshops were held on everything from drama and creative art to music and meditation and the evening sessions featured a Welsh cultural concert, a gospel rock band, drama and a "Jesus dinner" culminating in a communion service.

In addition to the personal contacts made through all these events, the tent town that housed the 1,200 participants was subdivided into villages and family groups with pastors chosen to offer each group support, counselling, and ways of earthing the experience of Dayspring in daily life back home.

"Dayspring aimed to help people discover a spirituality," said BCC staff person and conference organizer Michael Doe, "a way of living and praying which reflects and motivates our concern for this world." For many of the participants, the pilgrimage to Dayspring went a long way to achieving that.

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KIMBANGUIST HEALTH CENTRE  
OPENED IN KINSHASA, ZAIRE

Kinshasa (EPS) - The Kimbanguist health centre in Mbeseke, on the outskirts of Kinshasa, Zaire has been in operation for several weeks. It is the first completed part of a large project undertaken by the Kimbanguist church which is currently building a large hospital with a capacity of 500 beds and all the basic clinical and para-clinical services.

Dr Kiaku, director of Kimbanguist medical services, said the hospital centre was constructed according to the World Health Organization standards which integrate curative and preventive care.

In the health centre emphasis will be on preventive medicine for pre-school age children. Regular consultations will be given during the whole critical growth period, said Dr Kiaku.

In addition the health centre will give nutritional and health education to mothers, permanent staff training and public health courses for nurses.

A serious lack in the region's health facilities led to this centre being opened before the completion of the hospital complex.

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PRESBYTERIANS IN TAIWAN  
DEFEND THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS

Geneva (EPS) - A warning from the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan against the possibility of an invasion by Communist China and a request to President Carter that he "insist on guaranteeing the security, independence and freedom of the 17 million people of Taiwan" are featured in a human rights declaration issued by the church's General Assembly Executive on 16 August.

The brief declaration hails President Carter's consistent adoption of "Human Rights" principles in his diplomacy as "an epoch making event in the history of foreign policy". It then requests the president to uphold the same principles with regard to Taiwan, while pursuing the "normalization of relationships with Communist China".

Facing the "invasion possibility", "we hold firmly to our faith and to the principles underlying the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights," says the statement. "We insist that the future of Taiwan shall be determined by the 17 million people who live there. We appeal to the countries concerned - especially to the people and government of the United States of America - and to Christian Churches throughout the world to take effective steps to support our cause.

"In order to achieve our goal of independence and freedom for the people of Taiwan in this critical international situation, we urge our government to face reality and to take effective measures whereby Taiwan may become a new and independent country."

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# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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WCC CALLS FOR "DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION"  
IN THE PHILIPPINES

Geneva (EPS) - In a cable sent on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law in the Philippines, Dr. Philip Potter, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, has appealed to President Ferdinand Marcos to "grant general and unconditional amnesty to all political prisoners and to restore human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people". Dr. Potter has expressed concern about "continuing reports of detention on political grounds, torture and suppression of people's movements struggling for social justice".

The text is as follows: "On occasion of fifth anniversary of Martial Law in Philippines we express deep concern about continuing reports of detention on political grounds, torture and suppression of people's movements struggling for social and economic justice. We appeal to you to grant general and unconditional amnesty to all political prisoners and to restore human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people. Assuring you of our continued interest in the welfare of the people of Philippines and recalling your statement at the World Law Conference we urge you to take steps to ensure democratic participation by the people in the life of the nation".

Martial Law was declared in the Philippines on 21 September, 1972. Since then President Marcos has governed by a system of authoritarian personal rule, supported by the armed forces and reinforced by a new Constitution introduced without the approval of the Congress. During this period, Parliament and all political activities have been suspended and severe restrictions have been imposed on virtually all basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

A report published by the International Commission of Jurists, in Geneva, in June 1977 stated that "we received no convincing evidence that the continuation of Martial Law and the almost total suspension of civil and political liberties it entails is still justified over four years after its introduction". The report also stated that "serious cases of torture are still occurring".

In a speech at the opening of the World Law Conference in Manila last month President Marcos announced the relaxation of martial law restrictions, including the holding of local elections within a year, the release of political prisoners and the lifting of curfew. But a few days later, after the police had crushed a protest march by students and workers the President warned the nation that if violent demonstration continued he would be "compelled to continue martial law and rule under the martial law power".

Meanwhile arrests have continued. Among those recently arrested are Ms. Jessica M. Sales, who was one of the participants at the CCA Assembly in Penang, Herman Lagman, a young lawyer and Victor Reyes, a labour movement worker.



CHURCH LEADERS REACT TO DEATH  
OF STEVEN BIKO

Geneva (EPS) - The death in detention in South Africa of black-consciousness leader Steven Biko is still having wide repercussions. Dr. Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, in a Press statement said that: "The circumstances of Mr. Biko's death leave the South African authorities with the responsibility for silencing one of their country's strongest voices for non-violent change."

The statement went on: "The clearest lesson of Steven Biko's death is that the apartheid system's deepest allegiance is to death not life, oppression not freedom. So while we mourn the killing of a man of peace, we condemn the blasphemy of the system that practices such blatant injustice in the name of Christian civilization. In contrast to the extremes of the violent system that destroyed him, Steven Biko stood for non-violence and moderation."

The statement by the president of the South African Council of Churches, Sam Buti, and the vice-presidents Peter Storey and Sally Motlana, describes Biko's death as "one of the most horrifying pieces of news to emerge from the sinister apparatus which keeps hundreds of people in detention without trial."

The SACC delayed their statement for a day in the hope that Justice Minister Jimmy Kruger might appoint a judicial commission of enquiry into the whole issue of deaths in detention, of which Biko's is the 21st this year. When this did not happen, and indeed Mr. Kruger is quoted as saying that Biko's death "left him cold", the SACC declared: "We wish to make it clear that regardless of the actual causes of Mr. Biko's death and those of other detainees, any system which allows people to be totally within the power of state officials and beyond contact with the normal safeguards of legal protection is an evil and indefensible one.

"Mr. Kruger, and the whole political system which he supports and which supports him, have much to answer for."

"At the same time, we must acknowledge that such actions are made possible only because so many Christians in this country are not prepared to offer effective opposition to the government's denial of human rights and those of its actions which do not accord with the example of Christ. We call upon all Christians to play a more positive role in changing the situation."

"Our government professes to be guided by Christian norms and standards. That assertion, in the minds of many, has long ceased to even approximate the truth."

"If this government is concerned for the future of all God's people in this country, then we call on it to do away with that part of the security apparatus which has led to the death of so many people in detention, including Mr. Biko, a man who was fit and healthy at the time of his detention on 22 August."

The British Council of Churches also issued a statement which said that Steven Biko "was a committed Anglican Christian, well-known for his physical resilience, personal dignity and profound qualities of leadership". The BCC statement urges that an independent medical and judicial enquiry be set up to look into Biko's death and asks that there should be international representation on any such enquiry.

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EVANGELISM AND SOCIAL ISSUES DEBATED  
AT METHODIST/SODEPAX CONSULTATION

Reuti-Hasliberg, Switzerland - "In search of a New Society and the Social Dimensions of Evangelism" was the theme of a European regional consultation called by the Social and International Affairs Committee of the World Methodist Council here last week. Ten European countries were represented among the 27 participants. The consultation was organised in cooperation with SODEPAX (Committee on Society, Development and Peace) of the World Council of Church 's Unit on Justice and Service and the Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace of the Holy See.

The consultation was chaired by the Rev. Elliott Kendall, director of the Race Relations Unit of the British Council of Churches. Presentations were made by Dr. Julio de Santa Ana and Dr. Reinhild Traitler, of the WCC's Commission on the Churches Participation in Development, Fr. William Murphy (Pontifical Commission Justice and Peace), Mr. Willi Nausner (Austria) and Pastor Enrique Capo (Spain). A debate on the migrant worker issue was addressed by Mr. Peter Baur (Institute on Church and Industry, Reformed Church of Italy), Pastor Giorgio Bouchard (Waldensian Church of Italy) and Mr. G. Bosa (Vice-president of the Catholic Metal Workers' Union of Switzerland). Pastor Martin Lange from the German Democratic Republic gave the daily Bible studies.

In a final declaration the consultation stated that "The call of evangelism to people outside the church, such as the underprivileged and those of different outlooks, has to be made more effective by common search for answers and united action: to achieve liberation from individual and social oppression, such as unemployment, discrimination against migrant workers and the insecurity of the younger generation, and the right to obtain full information and political and economic participation".

The consultation also held that "being faithful to Christ's call and seeking the kingdom of God, we are still to cooperate with other groups, as there is often common agreement on a specific issue. For example, John Wesley strongly supported the campaign of Wilberforce to abolish the slave trade". The consultation also recommended that the Churches in Western, Northern and Eastern Europe seek more common ground with, and learn from those of Southern Europe. This recommendation applies especially to such issues as migration, labour relations, a new economic order and political involvement, in order to deepen their understanding of evangelism.

EPS



ORTHODOX CHURCHES URGE MORE  
RELEVANT PREACHING

Prague (EPS) - The Orthodox Church should have the right to use in their liturgy a translation and an interpretation of the Bible which is more understandable to the believers; should teach the clergy to preach a Bible message relevant to the actual situation, and should stimulate the study of the Scriptures by the faithful. These are the principle conclusions arrived at from the 25 delegates from 11 Orthodox Churches from Eastern Europe, and from Greece and Istanbul, in a seminar which took place from 12-18 September, in Prague, with the theme "The role and place of the Bible in the Liturgical and Spiritual life of the Orthodox Church."

This seminar, the fifth to be organized by the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) of the World Council of Churches was conducted by Father Ion Bria. They were all designed to stimulate missionary and ecumenical reflection within Orthodoxy. The host for the seminar was Metropolitan Dorotheos, spiritual head of the Czechoslovakian Orthodox Church. If the Orthodox Churches eventually adopt the propositions, the spiritual life of some 100 million Orthodox Christians will be considerably changed.

The seminar affirmed that the liturgy (the divine Orthodox service) culminating in the celebration of the Eucharist is the place where the Orthodox Church preaches and teaches. Also, where the church expresses in a contemporary way the "mystery of salvation" and renews the covenant between God and His people. The participants were told that "precisely because Liturgy is permeated by Scripture, it is of particular importance for evangelism". For the Eastern European Churches the service constitutes in effect the only way to propagate the faith and to give Biblical teaching.

The Prague seminar suggested that the church should proclaim the gospel in such a way "as to enable the new society with its cultural traditions and needs to apprehend and accept the good news of Jesus Christ" and not to be complacent in their present situation seeing that "our message today is handicapped by the erosion of the sense of the sacred".

The seminar also recommended that priests should receive training in preaching and teaching, to enable them to proclaim and in turn teach efficiently the Word of God in the language of their audience. They should respond not only to the personal and spiritual problems but also to the concerns that confront the faithful. Preaching, seen as an integral part of every liturgical service is essential also to give an interpretation of the Bible that "satisfies the spiritual needs and those problems that preoccupy people today".

In addition, the Bible message must be communicated to the faithful in their own language and in a manner to which they are receptive. This is not the case at the moment in many Orthodox churches. On the other hand the seminar suggested that "all aid possible" be given to stimulate people's interest in Biblical study.

The discussions saw the first need as changing the traditional fixed pattern of Bible reading and to utilize equally other parts of Scripture. This would allow the faithful, who do not own Bibles to become familiar with the whole of the Scriptures.

The seminar delegates concluded that the Church should take every opportunity to pursue its dialogue with the world. However, it will be firstly those faithful who live in the eucharistic fellowship who will be the true witnesses of Jesus Christ in this world.

EPS

#### CUBAN METHODISTS SEND FIRST MISSIONARY

Geneva (EPS) - During 1976 the Methodist Church in Guyana requested the Methodist Church of Cuba to send a missionary to help with the work in that country. At the Methodist Conference earlier this year in Cuba Rev. Joel Ajo was elected to be the first missionary to be sent from the Cuban Methodist Church to work "overseas". The Guyana Church had specifically requested a minister with a family and so Joel Ajo, his wife and family took up their new appointment on 1 September, for a two year period.

In a sermon preached on the occasion of the announcement of his appointment Mr. Ajo claimed that the Cuban church was in a privileged position. "What is happening in Cuba at this time is what we have been 'shouting' for from our pulpits for years and years, that which we have expressed many times in friendly conversation, that which we have desired in our innermost pained conscience of Cubans who love their country", said Ajo.

"It is true", he went on, "that Cuba has been converted into a socialist state, with an atheistic ideology, like many others in today's world. But, is the reason because we have no vision to see that 'the stones cry out' for as Christians we have kept quiet so long.

"We recognize, and with joy say, that the Cuban Methodist Church is engaged in making known to every Cuban that 'man does not live by bread alone', that in the last instance he is only happy when he has arranged his account with God; that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is a question of eternal life or of death and that every person, satisfied or unsatisfied with his social and economic position, has to confront this living reality", Mr. Ajo said.

EPS



WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL  
GIVES AWARD FOR PEACE

Geneva (EPS) - Miss Sadie Patterson, of Belfast, was last week, awarded the World Methodist Council Peace Award for 1977. The announcement was made at the Executive Committee Meeting of the WMC held at the Swiss Methodist Centre of Reuti-Hasliberg.

The Committee meeting, the first since last year's Dublin Conference, drew 148 Council representatives from the 62-member churches in 90 countries. The three day meeting was highlighted by two major addresses, on evangelism and Eastern Orthodoxy, and by plans for a five-year evangelism programme, as well as the Peace Award.

Miss Patterson, now in her seventies, is a life-long member of the Shanklin Road Methodist Church, Belfast. She has always been a campaigner for social justice causes, such as for women to be admitted to the police force. In announcing the award the president of the Executive Committee, Dr. Kenneth Greet, from London, said "Miss Patterson has sat with the men of violence and dissuaded them from bombing and shooting and has been escorted back across the peace line to her home". The award consists of a medallion and US\$1,000, and will be presented in Belfast later this year.

Shortly after hearing of her award Miss Patterson was again brought face-to-face with the violence when it was announced that her nephew, a part-time soldier in the Ulster Defence Regiment had been murdered in an ambush. Miss Patterson said the news would reinforce her fight for peace.

Dr. George Hunter, from the USA, gave the major evangelism address on "The Future of the Wesleyan Movement". He expressed his firm belief in "Methodism's intended future among the world's peoples even more now than in quite some time past", and, he declared: "the most powerful and redemptive years of Wesleyan heritage lie in its future, not in its past".

The five-year programme of world-evangelism will be directed by Dr. Alan Walker, of Australia, who said that "World Methodism, in cooperation with other Christians is setting out to seek the conversion of people everywhere and to fashion a just and free society".

Bishop Wm. R. Cannon, USA, reported on the initial contacts made by himself and Dr. Greet with the Patriarchs in Istanbul and Moscow. These visits open the way for Pan-Orthodox and Methodist ecumenical dialogue.

Bishop Cannon said "that Orthodoxy seems to us strange, even fantastic, because we are unfamiliar with it, untutored in her history and tradition. The Orthodox Church thinks of herself as 'the Mother Church of Christendom'. We can learn from her theology, be inspired by her worship and take encouragement and resolution from her piety and doctrines, without entering into full communion with her."

In talking about today's world problems the Executive asked their member churches in Africa to "combat the intolerable injustices presently being practiced in African countries under both white and black governments", and to support "all who work to combat injustice".

With Methodists from Asia and the Pacific pleading for the 1981 Centennial Conference to be held geographically closer to their member churches the Executive appointed a programme committee to plan the conference in Honolulu.

EPS

#### INDIANS ENCOURAGED BY ECUMENICAL SUPPORT IN EMERGENCY

COCHIN, INDIA (EPS) - A consultation to explore "the meaning of the Indian experience for Asia and the Asian churches" was held recently in Cochin, India. Sponsored by the Christian Conference of Asia and the Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (Bangalore) and the World Council of Churches, the consultation heard papers on Indian events in the Asian and world perspectives: on Church/state relations, and on new goals and methods of Christian participation in national life.

The consultation statement declared that "the recent experience of the emergency (in India) indicates that those fighting for justice and freedom derived support and strength from action taken by ecumenical and international bodies (WCC, CCA and Amnesty International) as well as action groups in other nations and the involvement of Indian nationals abroad. This support encouraged action groups within the country to take a bolder stand."

Taking part in the consultation were delegates from Korea, Thailand, New Zealand, United States and West Germany in addition to Indian participants. Speakers included Dr. M. M. Thomas, former moderator of the WCC's Central Committee, and Mr. Ninan Koshy of the WCC's Commission on International Affairs (CCIA) who assessed the international interpretations and reactions on the emergency and pointed out that the beginning of 1976 there was a convergence of economic and political interests of Western countries and economic and political interests of the USSR in the new order of India established by the emergency and that some of the Western interests and powerful institutions like the World Bank were keen about getting legitimacy for the regime.

In the statement from the consultation it was stressed that there should be an even stronger link than at present between international bodies and groups struggling for justice and freedom within India. This need was all the greater, said the statement, since some church leadership was either silent or came out on the side of the authoritarian regime.

Prior to the consultation the overseas participants met the Minister of Industries, Mr. George Fernandes, who expressed his appreciation to international organisations, like the WCC, for the moral support given him and others during the emergency. He said "I would like to express my gratitude to all of you, and through you the World Council of Churches, because during the 20 months when we were fighting in the underground, we received considerable support from the WCC and to that extent felt greatly encouraged. We became aware then that all around the world, people were campaigning and people were concerned - it gave us tremendous encouragement." Mr. Fernandes paid special tribute to the contribution of Dr. M.M. Thomas in the struggle for human rights in India.



EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN  
EVANGELISM URGED

Frankfurt (EPS) - The difficulties and the possibilities of cooperation in evangelization in Europe were the subjects discussed by the 35 representatives of evangelical organizations who took part in a consultation from 6-9 September in Frankfurt. The meeting arranged by the Commission for World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) of the World Council of Churches, was the first time that the evangelisation departments of Western European member churches had met together.

The result of the discussions showed that the mission work challenge in Europe was to the vast number of people who have no idea of the gospel: the younger generation, working class people and many intellectuals. Rev. W.A. Visser't Hooft, Honorary President of the WCC, in a major address said that the European churches did not give enough attention to the considerable growth of non-Christian movements. He gave a portrait of the European as one without regular contact with the church, but who is nevertheless, religious. He called this type a neo-pagan.

One way to get in touch with this new generation, the Frankfurt consultation felt, was to enter into discussion with them and seek to work together with them to find a solution to some of the huge ethical problems on which we as Christians have no clear answers:

The problems set by the Club of Rome; the use of nuclear energy; armaments and militarism; the murderous aspects of the traffic, and abortion, euthanasia and other medical problems, such as manipulations in genetics.

The director of the CWME, Rev. Emilio Castro, in his opening address, said that the Gospel is a public matter. He went on "We are obliged to face the new ethical questions that emerge in the scientific world", and, he continued "It is difficult to get credibility for a Gospel which does not have any words of wisdom for the new human predicament."

The consultation pointed out that faced with a fatalistic attitude Christians should proclaim that in Christ lies a future and that in Europe the churches express clearly the specific Christian view that "We are bearers of an indestructible hope where life, love and joy are possible.

The Brazilian theologian Zwinglio Dios addressed this European consultation from a Latin American viewpoint. The Bible studies were conducted by Paul Fueter of the United Bible Society.

The consultation suggested among other things, that parishes in the various European countries establish contracts with one another to exchange ideas and experiences; that Mission experts from urban, industrial and youth work should meet regularly to develop common approaches to their work, and that study material should be made available.

It is expected that other similar consultations will be held at regular intervals where Catholic, Orthodox and conservative evangelicals can also take part.

CHRISTIAN FILM CENTRE CELEBRATES  
THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Laren, Netherlands (EPS) - In a country where "good Christians" once regarded going to the cinema as akin to entering a brothel, Filmcentrum, the Christian film centre, has celebrated its 30th birthday. This ecumenical initiative is recognized as carrying out some of the most effective Christian film work anywhere in the world.

The celebration took place during FESTIKON, an annual event for film experts and users. John Taylor, recently returned to the World Council of Church's Communication Department after a year's work on an ecumenical project in the USA, and President of INTERFILM, addressed the gathering at the Dutch national centre. He said that he had often cited Filmcentrum as "the best example I know of creative and effective Christian film work on the national level - the level on which most film education and distribution should and does take place. It is a pleasure for me to repeat this now publicly in your own country."

Filmcentrum began as a Christian venture and has created an "alternative distribution system" whose viewers number some 2,400,000 a year. Like INTERFILM, the body that links such initiatives internationally, Filmcentrum takes a positive view of the cinema rather than the "thou shall not" attitude often associated with the church.

EPS

WOMENS' CONCERNS SUBJECT OF  
WSCF CONFERENCES

Geneva (EPS) - Two conferences have recently been held under the banner of the World Student Christian Federation's (WSCF) Women's project.

The Africa region held the first of these in Accra, Ghana, in August with the theme "Women in the Liberation Struggle". Taking part were representatives from Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, Togo, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Madagascar.

Analyses were made of the general position of women in Africa today. The conference statement concluded that the main problem for women in Africa today is not that of women's oppression by man, but that of a general oppression of the African masses by the systems of colonialism, capitalism and imperialism.

The European regional seminar took place in Rome at the beginning of September. Analyses and discussions were held on women and their bodies, abortion, women and ecology, women and socialism, and alternative life styles.

Both the European and the African conferences made recommendations to further their individual projects. These decisions included a more efficient distribution of literature on feminism, and organisation of seminars on women. These were planned at different levels of the WSCF organisation so that integration of ideas and events could be better effected.

A third seminar is due to be held in the Middle East region in October. All the regional consultations are geared towards an international consultation on women to be organized by WSCF in either 1978 or 1979.

EPS









2014



2013

2017



2018



**photo oikoumene**

Photos are available from the World Council of Churches, Film and Visual Arts Department, P.O.B. 66, 1211 Geneva, at the cost of Sw Fr. 20.—, or equivalent in your currency.





2015

2019



## FROM THE JUNGLE TO THE PLOUGH: AETAS SEEK A BETTER LIFE

(2013) Negritos, or Aetas, one of the oldest peoples in the Philippines; there are now only about 20,000 of them.

(2014) Over the centuries they have been pushed back into the mountain regions cut off from civilization.

(2015) They dwell in straw huts and until now they have always lived by hunting, fruit gathering etc.

(2016) Their existence in the reserve allotted to them was threatened because, with the increase in the country's population, efforts are being made to cultivate more and more of the land.

In 1964 a national integration committee was formed, with responsibility for helping cultural minorities in the development of industry, irrigation systems, electrification, new farming methods etc.

At Kakilingan near San Marcelino, 130 km north-west of Manila, an ecumenical foundation has been established to look

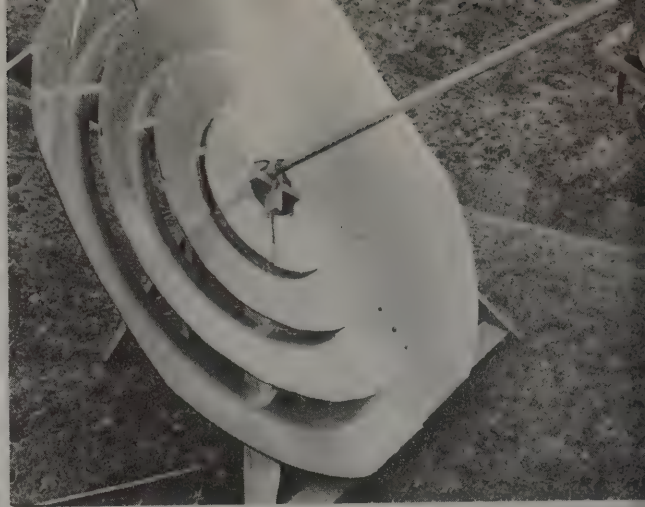
after the interests and welfare of the Aetas. In 1972 the first development technician settled among them. Since then material and financial aid has been given to the project, first by the United Methodist Church then by churches in other countries which have undertaken, through the WCC Commission on Inter-Church Aid, to provide the 500,000 Swiss francs needed to finance the programme over five years.

(2017) "Carabaos" (buffalo) had to be bought to enable the Aetas to work the land and become settled. Six villages are already benefitting from the project. However they will also need mechanized implements.

(2018) At present the Aetas' only means of transport on the often impassable roads that are their only link with the outside world is an ancient lorry.

(2019) Rufino Tima (right) does more than run this programme; he also holds evening classes for adults.

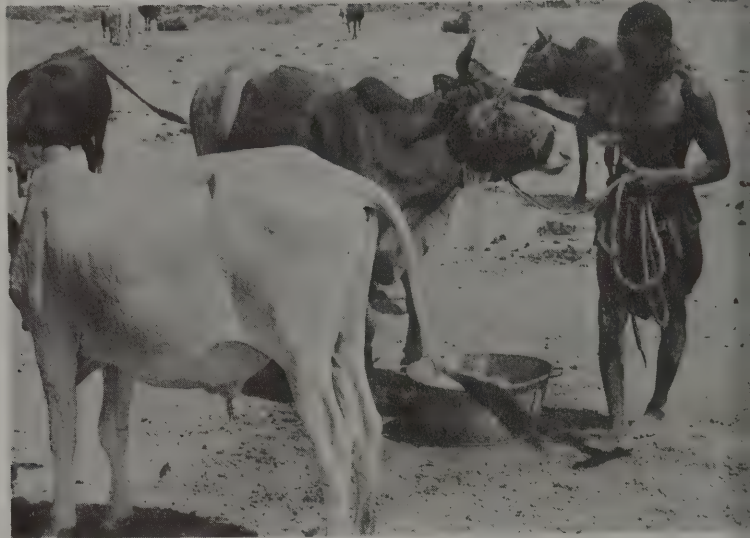




2012

2010

2008



## DESERTIFICATION

Since the end of August, experts from more than 100 countries have been attending a two-week meeting in Nairobi to discuss ways of dealing with the phenomenon that has been called the "leprosy" of the planet: the gradual disappearance of the vegetation in many countries. The danger affects 45 million sq. km. of land inhabited by some 600 million people.

One of the areas which has suffered most from this "desertification" is the Sahel.

(2008) When the vegetation disappears (over-grazing by cattle, lack of water) the desert takes over.

(2009) For fear of drought, the people increase the size of their herds which then decimate the sparse pastures and hasten the spread of the desert.

(2010) The Pissila dam in Upper Volta: irrigation is only one of the ways to combat this menace.

(2011) Reforestation in the Sahel to create a "green belt"

In Mali 115,000 shrubs were planted in 1976 in an effort to restore life to the soil.

(2012) to halt the deforestation of whole areas, scientists have developed a solar cooker which can reach up to 600° and could replace wood fires.

2011





No. 27/44th Year

27 September 1977

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF EPS WILL APPEAR ON 6 OCTOBER

RHODESIA'S PROPAGANDA WAR  
BACKFIRES

London (EPS) - The latest report from the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia, published in London last week, highlights the hypocrisy of the illegal Smith regime. While the regime claims to represent and protect the people of Rhodesia, in reality its authorities harass, terrorise, torture and kill black civilians in a futile attempt to win the civil war.

The Commission decided to publish the report despite the arrests of four of its leading members. The four - Mr. John Deary, Chairman; Father Dieter Scholz SJ, Vice-Chairman; Brother Arthur Dupuis, Organising Secretary and Sister Janice McLaughlin, Press Secretary.

In connection with the arrests Dr. Philip Potter, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches sent a telegram to Archbishop Chakaipa, in Salisbury, Rhodesia, expressing distress at the arrests and assuring the Archbishop of support in his endeavour to ensure that a fair trial is held and justice is done". Sister Janice has since been deported to the United States. Father Scholz is still detained, while the other two are on bail awaiting trial.

Many of the details contained in the report support July's EPS story (EPS No. 19, 7 July '77) which claimed that Rhodesian Army units were responsible for killing black civilians suspected of complicity with the nationalist fighters.

The CCJP report is entitled "Rhodesia, The Propaganda War" and is mainly concerned with how the Rhodesian forces are attempting to influence villagers by dropping leaflets, from planes, which contain such words as: "There are still some people who continue to help the terrorists and a few try to do their work for them. These people are counted as terrorists and will be killed by the Security Forces". The leaflets are addressed to: "Tigers; Terrorist informers; Terrorist agents; Sympathisers and feeders of terrorists, and Recruiters for terrorist training". The result of this propaganda war appears to be, however, that the villagers are seeing the "guerillas" not as enemies but as heroes to be copied and followed.

The Catholic Institute for International Relations, in London, who published the report after receiving the clearance to go ahead from the Rhodesian Catholic authorities, say, in their introduction that: "The fact is, far from protecting black civilians, the Rhodesian security forces place little value on their lives". The report gives detailed accounts of torture such as burning and electric shocks, carried out by the Security forces on civilians. Two pages are devoted to gruesome pictures of the injuries inflicted on innocent civilians.

The report also alleges that some half million villagers are now held in more than 200 "containment areas" or "protected villages". Lack of sanitary facilities, clean water and sufficient food make these places inhospitable to say the least and the villagers themselves do not think much of having to live

(more)



there. "Few have anything to fear from the guerillas", says the report, " and feel no need to be 'protected' from them. They are still in danger from the security forces and can be submitted to interrogation which includes torture and beating."

"Rhodesia, The Propaganda War", is available from the Catholic Institute for International Relations, 1 Cambridge Terrace, Regents Park, London, NW1 4JL.

EPS

POTTER CONGRATULATES  
POPE PAUL

Geneva (EPS) - In a telegram of congratulation addressed, on the 26 September, to Pope Paul VI on the occasion of his 80th birthday, Rev. Philip Potter, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, said that: "We are grateful to God for your faithful witness to the universal gospel of truth and witness and to his purpose of justice and peace for all humanity and to the prayer of Christ for the unity of his people".

The General Secretary also expressed the wish that: "God the Father richly bless you with his wisdom and strength to continue to be the shepherd of your flock around the world".

The WCC groups together some 293 Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox Churches from some 100 countries.

EPS

KLAUS VIEHWEGER DIES  
IN GERMANY

Hamburg (EPS) - The German journalist Klaus Viehweger died on 18 September in Hamburg at the age of 42, after a long illness. He will be well remembered in West Germany for his outstanding book on the mission and evangelism conference in Bangkok in 1972 which was organized by the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches.

Klaus Viehweger directed, from 1969, the Press service of the German Protestant Churches joint mission agency. Because of his illness he ceased work a year ago.

In earlier years he carried out a notable work as a journalist on the weekly newspaper of the Protestant Church of Bavaria.

EPS

NEW NCCCTASK FORCE FOR RELATIONS  
WITH MUSLIMS

New York (EPS) - A newly formed task-force on Christian-Muslim relations has been set up by the National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) in the USA. Elected to chair the new group was the Rev. Robert Turnipseed, executive secretary of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

Dr. Jorge Lara-Braud, of the NCCC's Faith and Order Commission, explained that the number of Muslims in the United States has quadrupled in the past decade, to some two million. There are 170 Muslim student groups in this country, and many of them meet in local churches.

The Rev. Byron L. Haines, of the United Presbyterian Church, who is to act as liaison officer, said: "You can't separate what happens overseas and here. The way Christians act here is of great relevance to the way Muslims overseas judge us. Muslim students, for instance, will go home and tell how they have been treated."

Representatives of the United Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, Reformed Church in America, Lutheran Church in America, American Baptist Churches, Mennonites, and the Southern Baptist Convention, took part in the initial task force session. They pointed out that there are disagreements in the churches on whether Christian-Muslim dialogue negates evangelism or gives each participant a chance to share understandings of ultimate truth.

EPS

NEW JOB FOR WCC NEW YORK  
OFFICE HEAD

Cincinnati (EPS) - The Rev. Charles H. Long, who has headed the US Conference of the World Council of Churches for the past four years, has been elected director and editor of Forward Movement Publications, an Episcopal Church agency based in Cincinnati, USA.

Forward Movement was established in 1934 "to reinvigorate the life and rehabilitate the work" of the denomination. It publishes devotional, pastoral, and teaching books and pamphlets.

Before joining the World Council's US Conference and its New York office in 1973, Mr. Long was rector of St. Peter's Church in Glenside, Pa. He was a missionary in China from 1946 to 1949, acting chaplain of the University of Pennsylvania from 1949 to 1950 and assistant head of the overseas unit of the Episcopal Church's Executive Council from 1950 to 1954.

Subsequently he was a missionary in Hong Kong and a secretary for the World Student Federation in Geneva.

EPS



EUROPEAN EVANGELICALS DEBATE  
HUMAN RIGHTS

Siegen, FRG (EPS) - At the 25th Council meeting in Siegen, Westphalia, of the European Evangelical Alliance, a discussion on human rights, particularly the right to full religious freedom, was opened with a first-hand report from a Hungarian representative attending the Council directly from the Billy Graham meetings in his country. The Council shared his thankfulness for this event and what it meant to Christians in Hungary. The meeting also agreed to call on its members to make representations through their own governments on the matter of full religious freedom in Greece. It also noted evidence of persecution of the Assyrian Christian community in Turkey, and agreed that protests should be made wherever they might be effective.

The Council delegates gave a special welcome to representatives from the German Democratic Republic, and from Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. They learned with pleasure of the high proportion of young people who had attended the recent conference of the Evangelical Alliance in the GDR at Bad Blankenburg, and of widespread observance of the Annual Week of Prayer in Czechoslovakia.

The Council expressed regret at the way in which the Italian Common Language New Testament had translated the crucial passage in St. Matthew chapter 16, verses 16-19; it agreed to endorse the statement made by the Italian Evangelical Alliance on this subject, and to convey to the United Bible Societies its concern at this departure from truly inter-confessional principles of translation.

The Council received into membership the Portuguese Evangelical Alliance. Membership now covers twelve countries.

EPS

PRESIDENT FORD JOINS TEMPLETON  
PRIZE JUDGES PANEL

Belfast (EPS) - Former US President Gerald Ford is named today as a new judge of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

The former President, who is a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States succeeds Dr. Norman Vincent Peale who retires by rotation after a three-year period. He will serve on the nine-member panel until the award of 1980.

The award which is given annually is worth US\$ 86,000 and was first presented in 1973.

The Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion was initiated by a layman who has been greatly concerned about the need to recognize one of the most crucial dimensions of human existence and it is hoped that it will do for religion what some other great prizes have done for science and culture.

EPS

ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMISSION  
FULL OF HOPE FOR FUTURE

Chichester, UK (EPS) - A statement issued at the end of the latest meeting here of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) said that although new problems have arisen - among them the ordination of women - commission members do not see them as reasons for wavering in their resolve and hope.

The criticism received of the work done so far by ARCIC has strengthened the conviction of its members that their task is "in accordance with the will of God and full of hope for the future", said the statement.

ARCIC was formed in 1969 by Pope Paul and the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Ramsey. The main purpose of this latest meeting was to analyze and respond to comments received by the group on the three agreed statements: the Eucharist, the ministry and ordination, and authority in the church.

The statement concluded by stating that papers prepared at the meeting here constituted a first attempt to respond to criticism of the three ARCIC statements and would be an important part of the commission's final report. However, their immediate purpose was "to stimulate us to carry our convergence further, to help our members in speaking to the churches in many places, and so to broaden as well as advance the dialogue." EPS

DUTCH CHURCHES CAMPAIGN FOR CONTROL  
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

s'Hertogenbosch (EPS) - In the Spirit of the Gospel message the existence of nuclear weapons should not be tolerated; they constitute a way to inhuman and massive destruction. For that reason it is thought imperative that Churches and individual Christians work, by gentle persuasion, to see them disappear quickly from the world scene. That is the unanimous conviction of a week-long meeting held in mid-September attended by various religious organizations and other movements in the country.

The delegates did not entirely agree with the proposition put forward by the Netherlands Peace Council - an action group within the churches - which is calling for the removal of all American nuclear weapons from the Netherlands. Some delegates felt that to make the Netherlands alone a de-nuclearized zone would mean increasing anxiety in the population because of the fear of aggression. The alternative suggested was to work for a reduction of tension between East and West on all borders. For example, more frequent meetings between Christians of East and West could create a certain mutual confidence which is one of the essential conditions to overcome the present situation where fear continues to exist.

EPS



PACIFIC ISLANDERS URGED 'GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS'

Kohimarama, New Zealand (EPS) - A meeting entitled "Pacifique '77" was held recently at the Patteson Theological Centre, here. It brought together national, village, church, women and other leaders to plan new ways to help the development of the Pacific people.

The meeting was coordinated by the Church and Society Programme of the Pacific Conference of Churches and supported by ecumenical and voluntary agencies in the Pacific, Canada, United States of America, Europe, and Australia and New Zealand.

Islanders took part from Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia (the Caroline and Mariana Islands), with about one-third speaking French. Nearly all churches in the South Pacific (including Micronesia and Hawaii) were represented through clergy and lay people. Government and voluntary agency officials were also present.

Father John Momis, a minister of the Papua New Guinea government, explained why he thought churches and priests or ministers should be involved in politics. He said that the Good News could not be absent from those places where laws and decisions are made that affect the lives and welfare of entire peoples. "It is sinful to let structures keep on oppressing our Pacific peoples by refusing to accept involvement in politics", he said.

Many of the representatives at Pacifique '77 wanted governments and churches to see that total human development alone perfects people. Economic development in isolation does not really help Pacific Islanders. Money alone does not make people happy. Development must also be social, cultural, spiritual and political. People develop themselves, they cannot be developed by others like outside experts or authoritarian superiors, thought delegates to the Conference.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the Christian Church is sent to the world to bring it divine salvation. But God's idea of salvation is not merely for the next life or for man's soul alone; it is also a reality that powerfully affects the whole man and changes this world now, the conference believed.

Many at the meeting also spoke about liberation. Sentiments expressed in the meeting were that to be fully human man must be free from all that keeps him down: personal sin, personal limitations, and the sin in society by which unjust structures prevent a fair sharing of the earth's resources and what man makes for them. But especially man cries for the liberation from those oppressive, unjust economic and political forces which deny to the majority of the Pacific peoples effective participation in the decisions that affect their happiness and destiny.

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Others in the meeting stressed the need for working with grassroot groups, promoting social awareness among the increasing elite and western oriented government officials, and a deeper human awareness among that majority of people which lives in the rural areas and in village situations.

In these ways, the meeting concluded, Pacific Islanders may begin to live their God-given responsibilities to work to create a more just society and a new earth for the new man. EPS

#### EGYPTIAN COPTIC CHURCH GIVEN ASSURANCE BY PRIME MINISTER

Cairo (EPS) - A five-day fast by the Egyptian Coptic-Orthodox Church ended with a visit from Egyptian Prime Minister Mamdouh Salem to Pope Shenouda III. The Prime Minister saw Pope Shenouda to assure him that he opposed the initiative of a group of deputies who last Spring, deposited a law project in the Egyptian parliament asking for the adoption of Koranic law throughout the country. The fast and prayer vigil was called by the Church to protest against the proposed new legislation.

The Koranic law calls for cutting off the right hands of thieves, stoning adulterers and sodomists to death, hanging apostates who renounce their Moslem faith and flogging those who produce, sell or drink alcoholic beverages.

The depositing of this proposed law has created deep anxieties in the country and in the Egyptian Christian Churches. The law against apostasy would directly affect Christians who become Moslem in order to get a divorce. Divorce is forbidden in the Coptic Church. In many cases these people later return to the Church whereas practically no Moslems are ever converted to Christianity.

Anxiety is not only found among Christians, however. A number of progressive organizations and individuals have denounced the proposed legislation. One prominent Coptic woman is quoted as saying: "It would represent a giant leap back to the Middle Ages". The legislation would particularly affect women, not only with the divorce issue but also because the importance and veracity of a woman in Islamic law is defined as exactly half that of a man.

EPS



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THE NEXT ISSUE OF EPS WILL APPEAR ON 20 OCTOBER

ARCHBISHOP EXPRESSES DEEP  
CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

London (EPS) - Dr. Donald Coggan, the Archbishop of Canterbury, back Tuesday (Oct 4) from a twelve-day official visit to Russia and Armenia, made it plain that he had impressed on representatives of the Russian government the deep concern for human rights felt by the world-wide Anglican communion.

He told a Press Conference at Lambeth Palace, London, that he had given the authorities the names of a list of people in Russia about whom Churchmen were concerned. Apart from Jorge Vins he did not feel at liberty to identify them - "I think it would be unwise to do so" - but this had been an expression of his continuing concern for human rights. "We made this point absolutely clear", Dr. Coggan said.

Dr. Coggan went out of his way to avoid any sweeping assessments or condemnation. His cautious account of his latest pilgrimage - he is the most widely travelled Primate of England - was significant for what was left unsaid as much as his balanced comments.

He very much hoped that his petitions on human rights would have some effect. "They are not deaf" he said "they know we represent a very large group of people throughout the world-wide Anglican communion who share with us deep concern for human rights".

But, it seemed to him that unless anyone lived for a long time within Russia no one could fully estimate the measure of freedom accorded by the state or the measure of pressure brought by the state. "It is difficult unless you live in a man-to-man relationship among people. I think it is about all you can say."

He was prepared to say he considered it quite possible that the climate was easier than it was some years ago for men of religious faith in both Russia and Armenia.

Dr. Coggan said that unity talks between the Anglican and Orthodox Churches would continue in spite of the ordination of women in some parts of the Anglican communion.

The admission of women to the priesthood in some parts of the Anglican communion had been discussed during his meetings with Patriarch Pimen, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, and other members of the Orthodox hierarchy. But he added: "They didn't regard it as an end of discussions and that is what matters greatly."

Dr. Coggan reported that Patriarch Pimen still regarded such ordinations as an "insurmountable obstacle" to the achievement of the aims of this dialogue.

The Right Rev. Robert Runcie, Bishop of St. Albans and Anglican, Chairman of the Commission, who accompanied Dr. Coggan disclosed that the ordination of women would be the subject of the Commission's next meeting in July, probably in Switzerland or Greece. It will be the first time that such an Anglican/Orthodox session on the subject at this theological level has taken place. The outcome will be reported to the Lambeth conference, due to meet shortly afterwards in Canterbury and may well influence any verdict or guidance the Bishops of the Anglican world give on the controversial subject. EPS



INDEPENDENT FORUMS DEMANDED TO  
DISCUSS FAST-BREEDERS

Geneva (EPS) - The Bellerive group has declared that "in the countries concerned there is an urgent need for forums of reflection and evaluation to be set up, capable of rising above the present polarised debate" concerning the use of plutonium and the development of fast-breeder nuclear reactors like that at Creys-Malville, France.

In a Press Conference on 3 October in Geneva, a group of ten internationally known personalities said that scientists, jurists, technicians, philosophers, economists, politicians, administrators and elected people "are capable of thinking about this complex problem and are able to form independent judgements".

"We are resolved to promote, through our group, the creation of such forums for debate," the statement declared.

The Bellerive group has been named after the village near Geneva where Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has his home. The group was founded on the initiative of the Prince. In the group are such well-known international figures as Rev. W.A. Visser't Hooft, Honorary President of the World Council of Churches; Martin M. Kaplan, former Director of Medical Research, World Health Organization and Director of the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs; Niall MacDermott, General Secretary of the International Commission of Jurists and former Minister of State for Planning and Land in the British Government; Paul Sieghart, joint Chairman, British Section, International Commission of Jurists, and Victor F. Weiskopf, former director-general of CERN (European Nuclear Research Centre). All the personalities who have joined the group have done so in a personal capacity and do not represent their respective organizations.

The Bellerive group is worried about the confrontation between the governments of France, Italy and Germany and the anti-nuclear movements over the construction of a fast-breeder reactor at Creys-Malville, France.

The nuclear debate, says the group, has become sharply polarised. "In this court of justice there are only advocates; the judges are conspicuously absent or lack competence. Government advisers are normally found on the side of the promoters. An objective balance sheet becomes impossible".

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In an indication that the group are neither condemning nor condoning the development of nuclear power the statement says: "between the extremes of nuclear panacea and total rejection there is a whole range of intermediate solutions from which both sides have a tendency to detract attention".

In a reference to the fact that fast-breeders are in a different class of nuclear development the statement also says that: "with the choice of fast-breeder reactors, mankind as a whole enters upon the plutonium economy. Its consequences for civil rights and democratic institutions have by no means been sufficiently explored". EPS

#### ORTHODOX PARTICIPATION IN WSCF INCREASES

Nicosia (EPS) - The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) held a meeting here from 22 to 28 September for the Orthodox youth, the first of its type since 1957. In reference to a larger number of movements for Orthodox youth, it has been decided that a special meeting be organised to analyze the particular role of the Orthodox in the future, gathering all the representatives of various movements.

According to WSCF General Secretary, Emilio Campi, the meeting had "an exploration concern" about strengthening cooperation in the future. Discussions concerned the relation between the Orthodox and the Bible early Church teaching, and mission and social responsibility. Mr. Campi underlined that separating the WSCF into Protestants and Orthodox is contrary to his Ecumenical belief, but mostly to offer "Orthodox youth" an "expression plate-form"

According to WSCF General Secretary, Emilio Campi, the meeting had "an exploration concern about strengthening cooperation in the future. Discussions concerned the relation between the Orthodox and the Bible early Church teaching, and mission and social responsibility. Mr. Campi underlined that separating the WSCF into Protestants and Orthodox is contrary to his Ecumenical belief, but by offering Orthodox youth a platform for expression it will be easier to encourage a mutual understanding of, and participation in the work of the WSCF and other students movements.

The WSCF organise these meetings as a service to the Ecumenical movement, said the General Secretary.

"We are in a way the kindergarten, where future ecumenical leaders will be found", he added.

A similar meeting is to be held with the theme: What does Liberation means for an Orthodox believer ? This meeting may be held in the Soviet Union.

The WSCF comprises some 100 member organisations in 96 countries. Fifteen Orthodox youth movements are included in this number from the Middle East, Greece, Rumania, Ethiopia, Egypt, Finland, France, USA, and the Soviet Union.

EPS

#### CORRECTION:

Our report on "Pacifique '77" (EPS, No. 27, 29 September) indicated that the meeting took place in Kohimarama, New Zealand. Although there is a place of that name in New Zealand we are now informed that "Pacifique '77" was held in Kohimarama, Solomon Islands.



ECUMENICAL NATURE OF ORTHODOX WITNESS  
DISCUSSED IN FINLAND

Valamo, Finland (EPS) - If there is a similarity of thought between Orthodoxy and other Christian churches about their responsibility to society there is a vast difference in their beliefs about the church, the eucharist and their confession of faith. This was the conclusion gained from the 35 participants who took part in a consultation of Orthodox theologians who met, at the invitation of the Orthodox Church of Finland, at the end of September. The consultation considered: "The Ecumenical Nature of Orthodox Witness" and was called by the Orthodox task force of the World Council of Churches. It was the first meeting that the WCC has ever sponsored in Finland.

The consultation was presided over by Metropolitan John of Helsinki, and strongly affirmed the centrality of the eucharistic liturgy in the life of the Orthodox Church. It is above all the place of encounter between God and man, the place of communal confession of the unity and continuity of the Church as of the faithful and is a preparation for the "liturgy after the Liturgy", i.e. engagement in the world.

The new conception of "liturgy after the Liturgy" has its reflection in a number of WCC programmes which came out of Nairobi assembly and to which the Orthodox Churches gave their support out of their ecumenical solidarity. The emphasis on helping "the poorest of the poor", on establishing peace and justice between nations and states, on eradicating hunger, destitution and illness, on promoting human rights, on diminishing tensions, on searching for a just and responsible society and on directing science and technology along creative lines, on the peaceful and safe use of atomic and other sources of energy", and other preoccupations of the WCC, "should be given due attention by our churches as the above issues are part of their Christian concern and an integral element in their social witness", affirmed the Valamo meeting.

The consultation pointed out several areas, from the theological and ecclesiastical point of view, where Orthodoxy and other WCC member Churches differ. The eucharist is not "just a sacrament", but "the great mystery of our participation in the life of the Holy Trinity", by which the Church "sanctifies and transforms the world".

Another point of divergence is the confessional aspect as taught by the Orthodox Church. Here the statement says: "The Orthodox Church possesses its own confessions of faith in the forms of creeds and the decisions of the ancient Councils, especially the ecumenical councils. This makes it appear as a confessional body or family and it is often treated as such by the non-Orthodox. And yet such an understanding of Orthodoxy, sometimes encouraged by the Orthodox themselves, would contradict the fundamental character of its ecclesiology. The Orthodox, if they are faithful to their ecclesiology, will have to deny the identification of the Church with a particular confession. A Church which is ultimately identified by its confessions is a confessional body but not the Church."

If the Orthodox Church refuses to practice "intercommunion" it is not through a spirit of superiority but through the conviction that communion should be an expression of the unity of the Church, a unity that has not yet been acquired, the statement goes on to say. This unity "which we seek in the Ecumenical Movement cannot be a product of theological agreements, such as signing a common confession, but should be an understanding of the existential significance of the community of the Church, particularly of her visible structure which provides man with the possibility of entering into a new and saving relationship with God and the world." EPS

## CHRISTIANS AND JEWS EXPLORE PILGRIMAGE FESTIVALS

Geneva (EPS) - The Jewish pilgrimage festivals, their significance for Jewish and Christian faith, was the theme of a seminar held at the Ecumenical Institute Bossey, from 24 September to 1 October. Twenty-five participants from Europe, North America, Africa and Asia, took part.

The seminar was arranged by Pastor H. Goedeking, of Bossey, and Dr. F. Von Hammerstein, responsible for Christian-Jewish dialogue in the World Council of Churches. A Christian worship service on the motives, problems and ends of pilgrimage began the seminar and Rabbis from Orthodox and Liberal Jewish groups introduced the participants to the tradition and practice of Pessach (Easter) Shavuoth and Sukkoth which has no direct Christian parallel. The Biblical texts for the festivals as well as some important Jewish prayers were studied.

A visit to a synagogue for Sukkoth and a Sabbath service were important for bringing alive the Jewish way of worship. Some participants had never met Jews and never attended Jewish worship. The study and experience of these Jewish festivals, which Jesus and the early Christians attended regularly was stimulating and challenging, because Jewish worship and family life are deeply rooted in the Bible the Christian Sunday, Easter or Pentecost can be enriched by a closer relationship to the Jewish origins. Unfortunately, Christianity and Judaism, especially after the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, often developed in opposition to each other instead of with each other. Christians often rejected and forgot important aspects of the Sabbath such as the celebration of creation; the historical background of Easter in the liberation of Israel from slavery in Egypt, and of Pentecost in the revelation of God at mount Sinai.

Seminar participants learned, through a Christian Orthodox contribution, that the Orthodox liturgy is closely related to Jewish liturgy, but there are also tensions which should be discussed in Christian-Jewish dialogue. These can be overcome by developing more understanding for each other.

A lecture by the African theologian, Professor John Mbiti, showed a close relationship in the symbolism of African traditional religion and old testament Judaism, particularly in regard to the concept of sacrifice and in tribal and family structures. The many parallels should be studied further because Christians in Africa are deeply interested in Judaism, including its family life and synagogue worship but they have a different approach to that of Western Christianity. The discussion on sacrifice in Judaism and in Africa was strange but challenging to the Europeans present.

The seminar was further enriched by a participant from Pakistan who knew Islam very well, but was experiencing Judaism for the first time. His comparison between Jewish and Muslim worship, ways of celebrating festivals and of family life, reminded the group that Christians in Islamic countries look at Judaism with different presuppositions to Western Christians.

The seminar concluded that Christianity and Judaism should not live independently and separately but should complement each other. This is true for the general relationship of the two religions but is especially true in liturgy and worship. EPS



THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CALENDAR  
IN THE MAKING

Geneva (EPS) - After various changes and a final examination of the proposed text, the Ecumenical prayer calendar could be in use by the world's churches in 1979. This is the opinion of 30 experts from various countries who took part in a four day evaluation session organised by the Faith & Order Secretariat of the WCC at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, near Geneva at the beginning of October.

The Ecumenical prayer calendar is the first ever attempt made to get all the world's churches to pray together, one for another and consolidate their sense of unity and solidarity. This initiative was taken as a result of the Nairobi 1975 assembly which recommended that all churches should encourage and assist their members in regular and informed intercession for the other churches. The Vatican Secretariat assured the WCC of their collaboration on this project.

The experts in Bossey studied a draft of this prayer cycle, which will cover the whole year, will list each week the churches by region or country and give information on their history and characteristics. A prayer of intercession will be included.

The project was warmly welcomed by the experts by the difficulties encountered in the preparation have been more complex than was anticipated. This is the reason for the delay in publishing the calendar, originally planned for Pentecost 1978. The main idea and line of approach have been approved. This means that for the whole year individual prayers for churches will be planned and used by parishes, prayer meetings, action groups, and individual Christians,

It was therefore emphasized in Bossey, that in order to avoid the rejection of the calendar the terminology used should not exceed the theological beliefs held by any individual church. The question was raised whether this calendar could be of universal value for all the different churches with their traditions, origins, contexts, geography, cultures, and politics.

Participants suggested that churches could amend texts as they wish but that such a calendar should be regularly used. As Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican Church worship is regulated by liturgical canons which give little opportunity for change the use of this calendar without official sanction by competent authorities may be difficult to adopt in these Churches' Commission meeting which will be held next summer in India will be left to make a final decision about both the publication and content of the calendar. EPS

THORNE RESIGNS FROM  
SACC

Johannesburg (EPS) - Mr. John Thorne, newly appointed general secretary of the South African Council of Churches has resigned.

In a Press statement the executive of the SACC say that his resignation is for purely personal reasons and has been accepted "with deep regret". At Mr. Thorne's request it will take immediate effect.

The executive have asked former general secretary John Rees to act in a temporary capacity in this position until the end of the year.

The statement adds that the executive has commenced its search for a successor and it is hoped that an announcement will be made by the end of the year. EPS







2020



2021



2022

## AMONG THE CHILEAN POOR

2023



Chile has never been a rich country but the economic policy of President Pinochet's government has created large numbers of unemployed and considerable hunger among the poor sectors of the population.

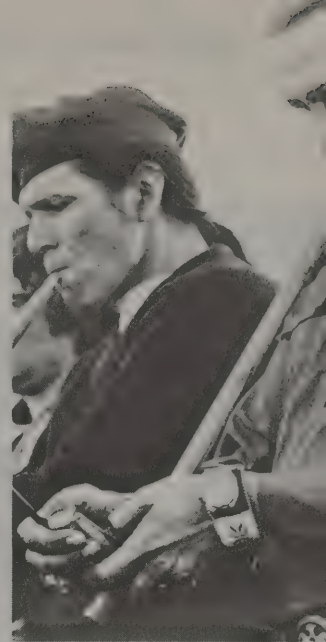
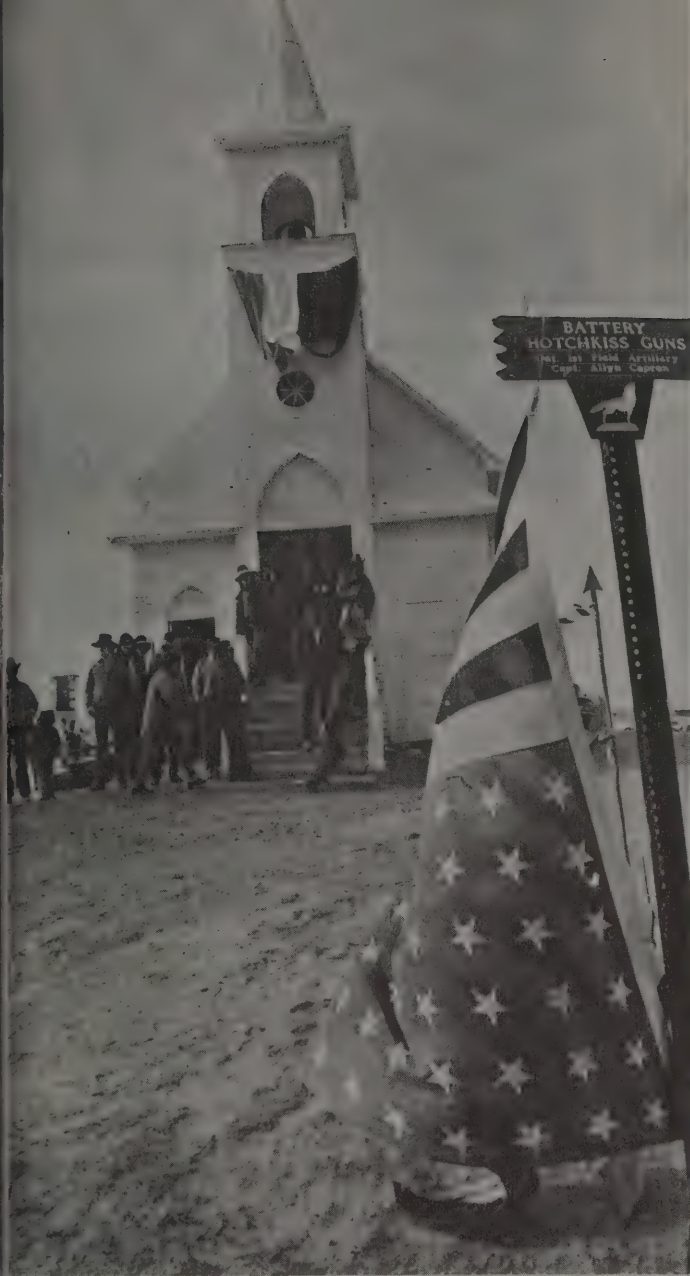
Several hundred feeding centres are being operated throughout Chile by both Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches - a mother looks on with gratitude as her son enjoys a nourishing drink (2020).

Unemployment of both men and women means there are always many willing helpers to serve the children food (2021). Estimates say that some 80 per cent of the population suffer to some degree from hunger. Feeding the youngest is a must (2022).

No drinkable water, little electricity. Shelters of cardboard, wood and sometimes corrugated iron are the basic ingredients of shanty towns in many parts of the world. This Chilean scene is one which could be repeated often. In this part of South America, winter temperatures can drop to 0 deg. C. Warm clothing and waterproof shoes would be a big help to this little "Mario" (2023).

Photo R.Gurney/WCC





2032

2029

The American Indians can never passively accept discrimination (2028) - This point was brought out in an international conference for the American indigenous population held in Geneva 19-22 September 1977.

(2029) Russel Means (right) the Sioux Chief and hero of Wounded Knee explained: "Our fate is as alarming as that of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia".

(2030) Since the beginning of 1970 Wounded Knee has been the war cry of North American Indians.

(2031) A number of people from the American Indian movement (AIM) protested against unfulfilled promises and agreements.

(2032) In 1972 in Washington, thousands of Indians protested in front of the office of Indian Affairs .

Today the indigenous Indians of both North and South America claim property rights to their land, control of natural resources, respect of their customs, religions, languages and way of life. Many of them, from the USA to Argentina are waiting for international support for their aims.

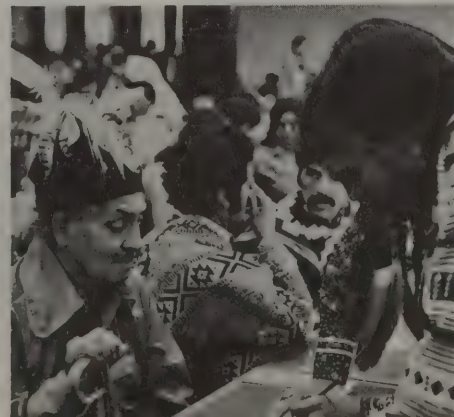
(2033) This Navajo Indian's photograph asks the question - "how much longer do I have to wait ? "

Photos RNS/COE

2031

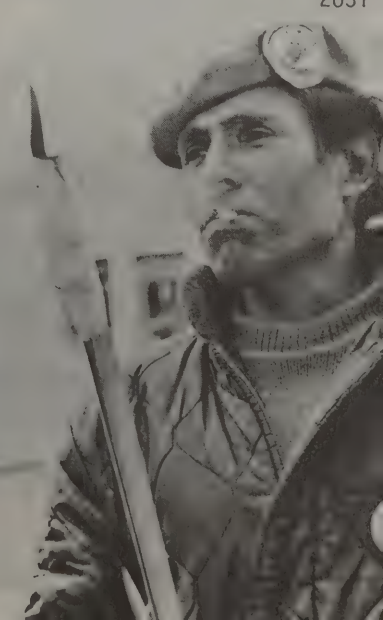
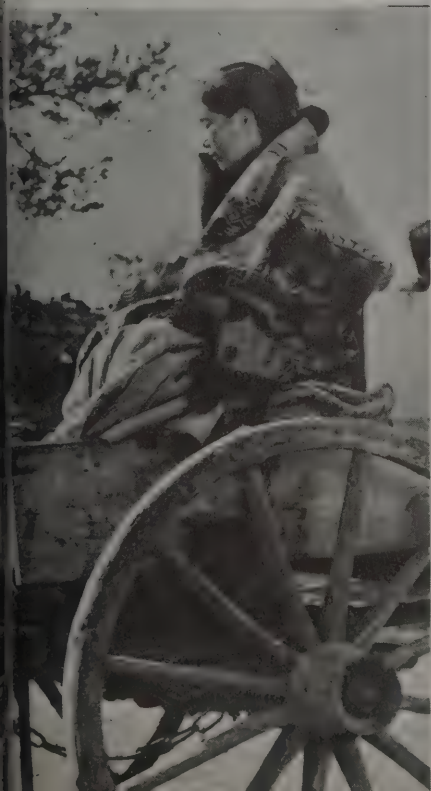
## JUSTICE REQUIRED BY INDIANS IN THE U. S. A.

2028



30

2033

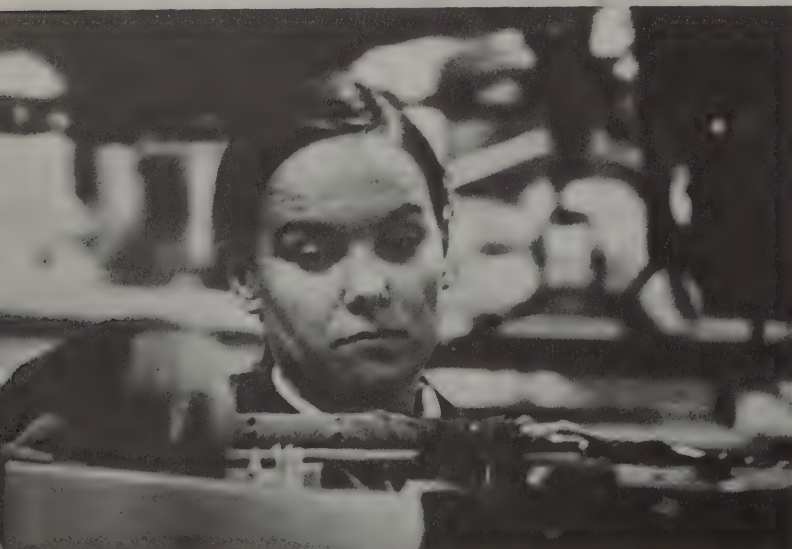




# MIGRANT WOMEN SPEAK



2024



2025



2026

It is rarely possible to show how strangers and powerless people in society live or present their claims and aspirations. This is even more true for immigrant women. The book, published in French with the title "Des Femmes immigrées parlent", tries to do just that. It relates personal stories of women from Southern Europe and Northern Africa. Such situations are considerably harder for women than men and the book reveals some of the inhuman conditions in which most migrants are forced to work.

The specific struggles in which women are involved clarifies as they speak about their day-to-day life, the education of their children, their jobs, racism, and their home countries.

The book will be published in English.

Photos Rapho/Paris  
Mohr/Geneva

Ed. Centre Europe-Tiers monde  
37, quai Wilson  
CH- 1201 GENEVA



2027

No. 29/44th Year

20 October, 1977

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF EPS WILL APPEAR ON 27 OCTOBER



## SOUTH AFRICAN CLAMP-DOWN ON BLACK ORGANISATIONS

Geneva (EPS) - The South African Government's snoop in the early hours of 19 October, against organizations struggling for social justice brought immediate reaction from both within and outside the country.

In the action 18 organizations were banned and many people banned and arrested. This action reflects the determination of the government to clamp-down on any opposition to its apartheid policies.

The Rev. Sam Buthe, President of the South African Council of Churches, in a statement said: "They will never break the spirit of the black people in this country. It is a disgrace that the government has detained people who simply want to take an active part in the affairs of their community. They are fighting for their rights and we are fully behind them. The government can rather lock us all up. I am shocked that the government does not respect the feelings of the black people because, after all, "The World" is being victimised because it is putting across the feelings of the black people. As Christians we should condemn this high-handed action."

The reference to "The World" is to the black-run, though white-owned newspaper that has been banned. "The World" is the nation's second largest selling daily newspaper with a circulation of over 180,000.

In a first reaction from the World Council of Churches, Acting General Secretary, Konrad Raiser, said: "The WCC views with dismay this morning's raids on homes and offices of people and organizations working for social change in South Africa. It denounces the arbitrary arrests of black people and the banning of people and organizations known for their stand against apartheid.

"We condemn most strongly this extension of suppression which eliminates the activities of black organizations and others sharing the same goals."

The WCC statement also drew attention to the banning of "The World", the "Weekend World" and the Union of Black Journalists and said that this action is "particularly alarming as it sounds the death-knell for the freedom of expression of black thought and belies the South African Government's claim of press freedom."

The WCC, which links together 293 churches around the world, including nine in South Africa itself, called on its member churches to press their governments to lodge the strongest of protests against this "gross violation of human rights".

EPS

EPS EXCLUSIVEDEPORTED NUN REVEALS RHODESIAN  
EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT FREEDOM FIGHTERS

NEW YORK/PITTSBURGH (EPS) - The white minority government of Ian Smith was accused today by Maryknoll Sister Janice McLaughlin of deliberately sowing dissent among the three Zimbabwe liberation movements. In an interview with the Ecumenical Press Service, Sister Janice said the Smith regime allowed Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole freely into the country. Their two organizations are therefore better known to the population than the Patriotic Front of Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe.

It is impossible to say which of the three groups would draw greater support in a free election at this time, she said.

Sister Janice was deported from Rhodesia on 22 September after 20 days in jail, because of her work for the Roman Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace which had issued a statement exposing Rhodesian terror action against the population. She said this "divide and rule" strategy of the Smith regime extends also to certain military operations which are designed to discredit the liberation movements. She confirmed reports that have charged that government jungle troops, disguised as guerillas, perpetrate village massacres and are the real killers of missionaries.

"We were continuously given examples of this occurring throughout the country", she said. "We were told how the government freezes an area, so that the Selous scouts can work. And they are free to perpetrate many deeds which are then blamed on the guerillas. There have been many deaths which the local population automatically attributed to the Selous scouts. There was the shooting, for instance, of an Anglican priest, Reverend Nyabatsa and there was a similar case when an African doctor, a Dr. Zoo, of the United Church of Christ Hospital was shot. Most of these incidents were explained by the government as having been guerilla actions. But the local population, families and relatives of the victims are convinced that this was the work of the Selous scouts. This type of thing happens continuously. The murder last December, of 27 workers at a tea estate, has now been investigated quite thoroughly, and most of the conclusions point to the fact that, again, it was a unit of the security forces, possibly, the Selous scouts, who carried out this particular incident".

The majority of the African population does not rely on government propaganda for their information, however. They listen to the Voice of Zimbabwe, broadcast from Maputo, or Radio Zambia and Radio Tanzania. Zimbabweans in rural areas have regular contact with the guerillas and attend meetings, explaining the purpose of the armed struggle and the future society that the liberation movements hope to build. At these classes the guerillas often stress that they are not fighting a racist war and that whites can also be "good Zimbabweans". They point out that they are not against the church, she said, and they encourage "brotherhood and unity".

Such gatherings usually end with patriotic songs and traditional African dances.



The political parties not banned within Rhodesia and which do not publicly support the armed struggle are given more favourable coverage by the media, she reported. Bishop Muzorewa of the United African National Council and Mr. Sithole of the African National Council are depicted as moderates who will not disturb the "civilized standards and way of living" established by the whites. Although both leaders stand firm on their commitment to "one man, one vote", the media suggest that they would make few changes in the present economic and social system.

The August edition of the African Times, monthly publication issued by the Ministry of Information, even carried a front page commentary praising Mr. Sithole. Both, Sithole and Bishop Muzorewa, have stated publicly that they will not be party to an "interracial settlement" with Smith, but the media either don't take the denial seriously or else are deliberately working to discredit them by associating them with Smith's plans, Sister Janice said.

EPS

#### SADAT VISITS SITE OF NEW CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

Cairo (EPS) - President Sadat of Egypt recently laid the foundation stone of the 250-bed St. Mark's Hospital next to the Coptic Cathedral in Cairo. The capital cost of this Christian hospital is being found within Egypt and includes a gift of £50,000 from the President. Equipment costs will be sought from Copts abroad, from churches around the world and from development agencies.

The presence of Mr. Sadat at St. Mark's came after a long visit to the Presidency last month by Pope Shenouda III and the Synod of Bishops. Firm assurances have been given that the government rejects independently proposed legislation which could have especially threatened Christians who had formerly been Muslims.

President's Sadat's speech before some 3,000 Copts, representatives of other Egyptian churches and a specially invited visitor from the World Council of Churches, spoke of the love and brotherhood which binds together Christians and Muslims in Egypt. He praised the Copts for their consistent loyalty to the building of a single nation and a single destiny in religiously pluralist Egypt, and for their rejection of outside interference in their affairs.

Pope Shenouda III emphasized the Qur'anic principles and the positive historical record of Muslims' respect and tolerance for Christians. He offered the prayers of dedication for the new hospital in the presence of his Muslim guests who then, led by President Sadat, spontaneously performed their Muslim midday prayers in the office of the Patriarch. The Cairo news media gave extensive coverage to the addresses of the President and of Pope Shenouda and to photographs of Pope Shenouda, kneeling in thanksgiving for national unity next to the ritual prostration of the Muslim President.

EPS

MAURICIO LOPEZ AWARDED  
DEGREE IN PARIS

Paris (EPS) - Dr. Mauricio Lopez has been awarded the doctor honoris causa degree in a ceremony at the Protestant Faculty of Theology in Paris, on the occasion of the Faculty's centenary.

Because of the fact that Dr. Lopez was kidnapped from his home in Mendoza, Argentina, on 1 January 1977 and has not been seen since, the degree was awarded in absentia and accepted by the Rev. Jacques Maury, President of the French Protestant Federation.

In announcing the award the Faculty described Mauricio Lopez as one of "the most cultured men in South America" and "a workman without equal in building ecumenism between peoples".

Soon after the announcement the telephone rang in the Faculty. The Argentine Ambassador on the line asked: "Who is Mauricio Lopez?" His Excellency was informed of the various positions held by Dr. Lopez in Argentina and then told of the circumstances of his disappearance. His help was then solicited to see if Dr. Lopez could be present to receive the award in person.

At the presentation ceremony reference was made to the authentic Christian life of Mauricio Lopez and his faithfulness to Jesus Christ. Prior to his disappearance Dr. Lopez was serving various ecumenical programmes in Argentina and Latin America including the excellent work being done for Chilean refugees in Mendoza, near the Chilean frontier.

EPS

CEC MEETING DISCUSSES  
CONCILIARITY

Sofia (EPS) - Delegates, observers and guests from more than 40 churches in 18 European countries met recently in Sofia, Bulgaria, for a theological consultation on church unity and cooperation in Europe. The consultation was held under the auspices of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), with the theme "Rediscovery of the Community of the Churches: Conciliarity - the way forward?"

The consultation made a number of recommendations to the churches including cooperation in deepening the theology of the Eucharist and Eucharistic life; a review, on an ecumenical basis, of the existing methods of writing church history and of the material used in religious instruction; the unremitting intercession of the churches and of Christians for one another; increased contact between the confessions in all countries; improvement in the exchange of information between the churches; greater endeavour by the churches to achieve their mutual reconciliation and the further observance of the terms of the Final Act of Helsinki.

Other than the delegates, observers and guests present, eight international church organisations, including the WCC and the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, attended the consultation. The Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church was the host.

Principle speakers included Bishop Oliver Tomkins (Anglican, UK) and Professor John Zizioulas (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople). The leaders of the consultation were Professor Geoffrey Wainwright (Methodist, UK); Rector Christoph Hinz (Federation of Evangelical Churches in the German Democratic Republic) and Dr. Lukas Vischer (WCC).

EPS



ANGLICAN /ORTHODOX TALKS  
STUMBLE ON WOMEN'S ORDINATION

London (EPS) - The ordination of women presents a major obstacle to dialogue between Anglicans and Orthodox and one that in the view of some Orthodox calls the dialogue itself into question. This became clear at a press conference given on Tuesday (18 October) at Lambeth Palace, London, by the co-chairman of the Anglican-Orthodox joint doctrinal commission, Bishop Robert Runcie of St. Albans and Archbishop Athenagoras of Thyateira. The press conference was to launch the publication of the agreed statement drawn up by the Commission at its meeting in Moscow last year.

Bishop Runcie said that on the Orthodox side there was a division between those who felt the steps that had already been taken within the Anglican communion constituted reasons for breaking off dialogue, and those who regarded the ordination of women as an example of the issues that divided them and that therefore should be tackled - while some thought it was not a subject that could be discussed at all because theology reflected tradition and the ordination of women was not something in tradition.

On the question of the ordination of women, Archbishop Athenagoras was uncompromising. It was not something that had been received from the Apostolic Church but something that had been invented, and inventions caused trouble. He quoted the example in his own church of the introduction of a new calendar leading to schisms. And over the ordination of women a situation of schism existed among Anglicans in the USA.

For the Orthodox, the Archbishop said, theology had nothing to do with the ordination of women, and to say there were no theological objections to it was "a very wrong statement". The Orthodox hoped the next meeting of the commission - to be held next July, it is hoped in Bulgaria, and to be devoted to this question - would produce a document which would encourage those members of the Lambeth Conference who were not in favour of the ordination of women and which would enlighten those who were. (The Lambeth Conference is due to meet shortly afterwards).

Asked if the eventual aim of unity between Anglicans and Orthodox implied the Anglicans having to give up the ordination of women if this were to be achieved, Archbishop Athenagoras said: "that is our hope". Bishop Runcie was more guarded and said this would have to be the case if union were to be achieved as rapidly as this year or next. EPS

ASIAN STAFF MEMBER FOR FRENCH  
ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

Strasbourg (EPS) - Dr. Sutan Hutagalung, formerly General Secretary of the Christian Protestant Church in Indonesia (GKPI) has been appointed Research Professor at the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg.

The principle task of Professor Hutagalung will be to direct attention to ecumenical discussions and developments in Asia (and perhaps also in Africa) and to maintain, strengthen and develop contacts with and the cooperation of Lutheran Churches and Ecumenical Agencies in these regions.

He is the first theologian from the Asian African countries to hold such a post at the Institute. A graduate of the Yale Divinity School and of the Yale Graduate School in the USA, Dr. Hulagalung has also served for seven years as Professor in Christian Ethics at Nommensen University in Indonesia, and was guest-professor at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and at the Hamma School of Theology, Springfield, Ohio, from 1972 to 1973.

EPS

## GRADUATE SCHOOL OPENS AT BOSSEY INSTITUTE

Geneva (EPS) - The 26th session of the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies opened on 13 October at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, near Geneva, with a record number of 64 students from 30 countries. The theme of this year's session is "Power, Church and State". The Kenyan director of the Institute Dr. John Mbiti, in an address at the opening said that: "Some of the candidates for this Graduate School are not with us now because of both Church and State power: at least one is in prison, one under 'house arrest', and two could not come because of Church power".

Dr. Mbiti went on: "We do not come together to solve these riddles of Power, Church and State as such but to stimulate one another in understanding them within the ecumenical framework and to discern the will of God for our world today".

The Assistant Director of the Institute, Rev. Alain Blancy, speaking about the power of the state in the international context, said that this was a period when this subject had been in partial eclipse because of concentration on ideological, technological, financial and economic power but that now it had returned to the forefront of attention.

Among the other speakers were Professor François Bovon of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Geneva, Rev. Alan Brash, Deputy General Secretary, WCC, and Pastor Hans Goedeking, a lecturer at the Institute, who gave the Bible address.

Around 1100 students have participated up to now in the Graduate School held at Bossey, John Mbiti, in reference to the changing financial situation of the Institute said: "We express our deep gratitude to friends of Bossey who both privately and through their churches, have given or solicited money for the Institute, so that its activities can continue. The Bossey Fund which was launched less than a year ago, has one million francs now, an encouraging sign of support, though far from the goal of ten million francs".

EPS

## AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES STRENGTHENED

Sydney (EPS) - The Australian Council of Churches is being strengthened by the generous offer from the Uniting Church in Australia and the Society of Friends (Quakers) who have each offered part-time staff appointments.

The Rev. R.F. Wotton, secretary for Justice and Development with the Uniting Church Commission for World Mission began his appointment on 1 October. His work is in the area of human rights and political detainees, militarism and urban rural mission.

The treasurer of the Quaker Race Relations Committee, Mr. Jim Saville, will work part-time with the ACC in education against racism in the churches and the Australian community. South African born, Mr. Saville has a keen interest and knowledge of current affairs in the Southern African situation. The Quaker Race Relations Committee took this initiative in response to the misinformed attacks being made on the ACC over policy towards Rhodesia. "We feel there is an urgent need for better balance in the often biased press reports which come from South African and Rhodesian Government sources and are used by our public media without question", a Quaker letter commented.

EPS



EDUCATION SECRETARIES DISCUSS  
ECUMENICAL AWARENESS

Geneva (EPS) - The question of how people in the congregations and in local communities could be involved in a process of ecumenical learning was discussed recently during a meeting on ecumenical education organized jointly by the World Council of Churches Education Desk and the Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development (CCPD).

The meeting, at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, heard case studies of different teaching methods aimed at helping local congregations and communities to become aware that they are part of a global family where the "unity of the Church and the unity of humankind are inseparably linked together".

The case studies showed the need to design a participatory education process, where learning occurs through involvement in situations, rather than through academic studies.

Following a joint meeting the Education Secretaries from nine regional or national ecumenical agencies met to share regional and WCC educational programme experiences, and discuss further cooperation and action, for example:

- How is it possible to carry out Christian education work in a revolutionary (i.e., a changing, evolving) situation ?
- How can we take children seriously and deal with them as true persons ?
- If we take children seriously and deal with them as true persons, how will this affect our models for Christian education and influence our Christian education methods ?

Study of these questions will be intensified with particular emphasis on preparing the Church's contribution to the International Year of the Child, 1978.

At the same time, the meeting of the Development Education Secretaries from eight European countries discussed how to respond, through development education programmes, to the present European situation. Based on an analysis of economic, political, and social trends in Europe and the effects these have on the churches' development attitudes, participants identified some priorities for development education, namely:

- to stimulate the work with local congregations and communities through leadership training;
- to intensify inner-European cooperation through linking up development weeks, campaigns and experiments;
- to foster solidarity with Third World Groups.

EPS

WOMAN PRIEST CELEBRATES EUCHARIST FOR  
FIRST TIME IN CHURCH OF ENGLAND

London (EPS) - For the first time a woman priest has celebrated the Eucharist in an Anglican Parish Church in England. The Celebrant was an American, the Rev. Alison Palmer, and the Eucharist took place on Tuesday 11 October at the Church of the Apostles, Miles Platting, Manchester. The Rector, the Rev. Alfred Willetts, and his wife Phoebe, a deaconess, personally invited Miss Palmer and paid her air fare to England out of their own pockets.

Five days later, on Sunday, Miss Palmer, a 46 year-old employee of the US state department, again celebrated the Eucharist in another Anglican Church - this time at St. Thomas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

In both cases the primary motive seems to have been not publicity - it took six days for the news to reach the press - but the feeling that those concerned could do no other. Mr. and Mrs. Willetts told "The Guardian", which broke the story on Monday: "We cannot wait for man's permission to celebrate what Christ has done for women and men, nor can we see our priesthood as being granted by condescension of man but as laid upon us by God".

The Willetts only informed their Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Patrick Rodger, after the event. He said he regretted "very much" what had happened and that he would "now have to consider what action is to be taken in view of this unlawful proceeding". But in Newcastle Bishop Ronald Bowlby was consulted by the Parish council, which, with only one dissentient vote, decided to go ahead despite the Bishop's attempts to dissuade them. Archbishop Stuart Blanch of York, the province in which both Eucharists took place, commented: "Action of this sort is counter-productive, and what we want is rational and balanced discussion of the whole matter".

Through its General Synod the Church of England has accepted that there is no fundamental objection to the ordination of women, but has so far deferred doing anything about translating this statement of principle into practice. The matter is next due to come before the General Synod in November 1978.

In November 1976, Miss Palmer, who was one of the 15 women ordained in advance of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the USA accepting women priests, became the first woman priest publicly to celebrate an Anglican Eucharist in England - but that service was held in a North London Unitarian Church borrowed for the occasion. This month's two services open the prospect of sporadic celebrations in England by visiting women priests until such time as the Church of England decides itself to ordain women to the priesthood. At the moment such services are illegal, but there seems to be little or nothing in the way of sanctions that the Church authorities can in practice bring to bear against English clergy who offend by allowing women priests to minister at their altars.

EPS

WORLD YWCA LAUNCH PACK ON DEVELOPMENT

Geneva (EPS) - The World YWCA have launched a new Programme of Cooperation for Development. Development, as seen by the programme is a multi-purpose word relating to human dignity, to the quality of life, to peace and justice and to the ability to grow.

To help YWCA groups promote the programme an information pack has been produced containing visual aids and written material including brochures illustrating work among rural women, the YWCA and UNESCO cooperative Services, the caring community, and a World YWCA and UNESCO cooperative action programme in the South Pacific.

EPS



## BOOK CORNER

A number of books have recently been published by the World Council of Churches and are available from the addresses listed below.

"Faith in the midst of faiths" is subtitled Reflections on Dialogue in Community and presents the papers given at the Chiang Mai, Thailand, theological consultation, in April, 1977. It is edited by Dr. Stanley J. Samartha, Director of the WCC's sub-unit on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies. Published in English. (Price: Swiss Francs 2.50).

"Inside Out", a style for dialogue, is also concerned with the Chiang Mai consultation. This 74 pp issue of Risk, the last in the present style, presents the consultation in a popular way with photographs and personal viewpoints. Published in English. Price : Swiss Francs 4.50).

"In each Place" contains the report of a consultation, held in Geneva late in 1976, which considered what unity means for the way local congregations in a particular area understand themselves and shape their common lives. It uses examples from the churches on how movement towards becoming a fellowship of local churches truly united takes different forms in different places. Published in English. (Price: Swiss Francs 7.90).

"The Poverty Makers" by David Millwood, is intended for a non-specialist readership of people interested in the causes of poverty and injustice. It looks at the systems and mechanisms that perpetuate them and what can be done to challenge and change them. Published in English. (Price: Swiss Francs 6.50).

"Mission and Justice" describes urban and industrial mission at work and is published to present the Urban and Industrial Mission Office of the World Council of Churches. Published in English. (Price: Swiss Francs 6.00).

"No Last Frontier", tells the story of the struggle for survival and self-determination of the Dene nation in Canada. This is a Risk issue published jointly with the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism who grant money to the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories in Canada, the organization of the Dene people. Published in English. (Price: Swiss Francs 4.50).

"Lausanne 77" celebrates the fiftieth year of the Faith and Order movement. It brings together all the addresses given during the celebrations in May and is introduced by Dr. Lukas Vischer of the WCC's Unit on Faith and Order. Published in English and French. (Price: Swiss Francs 6.90).

Available from: World Council of Churches, P.O. Box No. 66, 150 Route de Ferney, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

WCC, New York Office, Suite 1062, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 100100, N.Y.

British Council of Churches, 10 Eaton Gate, London SW1, England.

Canadian Church Bookroom, 600 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2J6.

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## Ecumenical Press Service

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CHURCHES ONLY LEFT TO  
FIGHT

Johannesburg (EPS) - "Now we only have the churches left to fight". That reaction of an African from Soweto in reference to the intervention of the South African Government against black organisations and the multi-racial Christian Institute on 19 October, illustrates the hope now being placed in the churches in the deteriorating South African situation.

The intervention action had two objectives: to remove attention from the death in prison of the "father" of the black consciousness movement, Steve Biko, who died from brain damage. And, on the other hand, to end the incessant political agitation in the African cities, in particular among the young people.

It is also significant that in the week in which the repression measures were pursued the report on the autopsy on the death of Steve Biko was disclosed, and the government also announced the introduction of "community councils" and the increases in rents in Soweto - two measures against which the banned movements had fought.

The target of the government: black consciousness, a philosophy developed during the late 60s, is seen as giving back dignity to the blacks in South Africa. Likewise, aiming at sympathetic whites, like Dr. Beyers Naude, national director of the Christian Institute, who on 30 October was to give a conference on the theme: "For a better understanding of black consciousness".

What now? The months to come will show if the government has been effectual in prohibiting the black movements and in imprisoning their leaders. They hope to obtain 10 years of peace, as in 1960, but nothing indicates that they will be successful in subduing the new generation of militant blacks, who in the course of the last 16 months have faced death and detention.

And what of the churches? "The time for rhetoric is long past, now is the time for action" suggested a militant Christian tired of the "too slow" development of the Churches. Why do the churches not start becoming active "in the passive movement to oppose apartheid," demand the militant Christians in the "black consciousness". What impact would it have if the churches refused to send their chaplains into the army, refused to respect the prohibition of inter-racial marriages, integrated all their schools.....

But the evolution of the multi-racial churches, such as the Catholics, Anglicans, and Methodists, to oppose apartheid, will not be easy. A number of faithful whites left the Catholic Churches last Sunday, when a message from Msg. Fitzgerald, Archbishop of Johannesburg, in a letter read in all the parishes, condemned the prohibitions.

The recent Cape Synod of the Anglican Church decided not to confront the government on the question of integrated schools, but to wait for the permission of the authorities.

But the blacks who comprise the majority of the faithful of those churches will not be likely to give up the struggle. A solidarity group of black Catholic priests took the initiative to protest peacefully against the repression in the centre of Johannesburg. "Ban the Bible, ban the Church", said the banners brandished by the priests, who were rapidly arrested and charged.

At the annual Methodist Conference, after having heard of the bannings, the black delegates rejected, for the first time, to send the traditional courtesy letter to the President of the Republic.

The churches are moving, yes, but are they moving quickly enough to equal the rhythm of Soweto?

Dominique Tournier, EPS.

BCC CHALLENGES BRITISH CHRISTIANS  
ON ZIMBABWE

London (EPS) - The British Council of Churches has published a new information booklet called "Rhodesia Now: the Liberation of Zimbabwe". It provides an updating of the Zimbabwean situation as seen by British Christians.

It outlines the processes of negotiation from the time of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965 and notes the failure of the policy of sanctions against Rhodesia to achieve a settlement.

It provides facts about the parties most closely involved in the negotiations, the Nationalist Leaders, the South African Government, the Front-Line Presidents, and those responsible for the armed struggle, and it makes suggestions to British Christians for action and prayer.

The booklet recognises that in the civil war now going on in Rhodesia, the majority of black Christians are opposed to the present illegal white regime of Ian Smith, and seek its overthrow. Black Christians, it maintains, are divided about the methods employed in the armed struggle, but not about what it aims to achieve.

While maintaining a sympathetic understanding for those of all races caught up in the Rhodesian war, British Christians are challenged to a new solidarity with black Christians in Rhodesia, and to a renewed commitment to a settlement through negotiation which will provide a swift and orderly transfer of power from the present white minority to the black majority. The booklet calls for increased assistance to refugees from Rhodesia and accelerated training for those who will administer the new Zimbabwe.

EPS

SCHOLARSHIPS TAKE EXPERIMENTAL  
TURN

Geneva (EPS) - The guidelines which should be followed for an experimental period by the World Council of Churches in giving family scholarships was one of the subjects for discussion in mid-October by 18 national correspondents of the WCC's Scholarships Programme.

The correspondents recommended that the need for such scholarships should be decided upon by the couple involved and their own church before the case is passed for consideration to the national correspondent and the WCC programme.

The Central Committee of the WCC in 1976 issued the guidelines for a limited experiment on family scholarships during the 1978/79 academic year. This is to enable married couples to benefit from WCC scholarships by studying abroad and that their families would be financially provided for during their absence.

Among other things discussed by the national correspondents was the need to form scholarships committees at the level of each national council of churches or other similar religious organizations. This will help to coordinate requests for scholarships in view of the actual needs in the area.

The Scholarships Programme of the WCC has, since its inception in 1948, given more than 4800 scholarships to students from about 100 different countries. One of the main aims of the Programme is to assist churches in training leaders in ecumenical thinking in order that they may have a wider vision of the Church when returning to their own country and taking up new responsibilities.

EPS



'BIBLE IN OUR WORK'  
CONSULTATION

Naramata, Canada (EPS) - Thirty-five Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox theologians and lay people from eighteen countries met, last week, in this tiny village in the heart of the Okanagan Valley to discuss "The Bible in our situations and in our work".

The consultation was sponsored by Associations of Christian Lay Centres on several continents, the World Council of Churches and the Canadian Council of Churches. The Rev. Adeolu Adegbola, Nigeria, was the chairman. Case studies of programmes carried out by lay training centres in Asia, Africa, Europe and North and South America were presented.

There was unanimous agreement on the Bible's relevance for people in this century. In fact, critics of church social action programmes who advise churches to "get back to the Bible" or "preach the Gospel" would perhaps be amazed at how unequivocally the Bible supports the very action they condemn, the Consultation thought.

Mrs. Oshadi Phakathi of the Christian Institute of Southern Africa and now living in exile in Holland, told the gathering that the fifth chapter of the book of Lamentations described perfectly the situation of the Black South African today.

The Africa case study written by Mrs. Phakathi and Rev. Adeolu Adegbola, stated: "The relevance of the Bible to us is seen more and more in the fact that its pages are full of stories of the efforts of one people making sense of their lives. The major human experiences which we undergo ourselves with shared joy or anxiety or which we watch other people go through, are all mirrored in the Bible.

"Like us, Abraham experienced being rootless; the Hebrews went through enslavement under Pharaoh and so antedated our ancestral experience of slavery and our own exploitation under colonialism.

"An interpretation of the Bible for social affairs," the paper continues, "appears to some as political meddlings, a misuse of religion as a means for social control."

The South African Government believes that religion "will make the people obedient to constituted authority" and the problem of religious leaders is how to convince the government that "Christianity has other roles than just bringing people to a state of submissiveness," and how to "challenge church people to an interpretation of the Bible which takes social challenges into account."

Life in South Korea is like living "between a snake and a tiger", said the Rev. Won Yong Kang, Director of the Christian Academy of Seoul (referring to President Park of the Republic of South Korea and the Communist Government of North Korea).

The Korea Christian Academy was established in 1965 in order to give leaders and potential leaders the information and skills to work to diminish the polarization existing in Korea through freedom and justice, said Dr. Kang.

This goal, he said, "is inspired by the example of Jesus Christ who identified himself with human beings as one who serves; whose mission was to reach out to help the blind, the poor, the oppressed and the imprisoned." This can only mean that the mission is connected directly to the liberation of all humanity.....in the midst of present social structures," "Dr. Kang said. He said the Academy also existed to bring about reconciliation between rich and poor, between oppressor and oppressed, and between South and North Korea.

PATRIARCH PIMEN PRAISES  
FAITH AND ORDER MOVEMENT

Odessa, USSR (EPS) - "Our church has always attached special attention to the common search of all Christians for the unity of the Church and has welcomed every success made in this sacred cause by the Commission on Faith and Order. We regard the agreed statements on Baptism and the Eucharist, which have become possible for the first time in the history of the ecumenical movement, as a considerable achievement on the road to Christian unity."

Pimen, the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, expressed this conviction in a message addressed to a consultation held in Odessa 11-16 October, and organised by the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches at the invitation of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Patriarch referred also to criticisms of the agreed statements formulated by the Russian Orthodox Church, especially of the text on the ministry in the Church. He said, that in his view the text on the ministry was "a very valuable working document which can serve as a good basis for theologians of all churches - in fact by the whole ecumenical movement - to work out an agreement on the ministry". Without such agreement "Christian unity would be unthinkable".

The Patriarch suggested that the issue of the so-called "priesthood of women" should be discussed outside the "content of future consensus on the ministry"; it should be discussed rather in the "context of the service of women in the Church than in the context of the ministry". He emphasized the readiness of the theologians of the Russian Orthodox Church to participate in discussions of this issue.

The consultation in Odessa was convened by the Faith and Order Commission to deal with the question: "How does the Church teach authoritatively today?" About 35 theologians from different parts of the world participated in the meeting; the member churches of the WCC in the USSR were represented by substantial delegations.

Wide agreement was reached at the consultation that teaching should, as far as possible, involve all levels of church life and assure the widest participation. The teaching of the Church should not give the impression of imposing rules but rather strengthen attitudes of hope, and give guidance to people in order to cope with contemporary challenges.

Three questions dominated the discussion. How does the Church in fact teach today? Many churches hold definite doctrines about the way in which authoritative teaching should take place. However, when they are actually confronted with the pressing questions of the contemporary world they do not necessarily follow the way suggested by their own doctrines. The consultation made an attempt at analysing this discrepancy. It then moved to the question: how should the Church teach in order to be heard by the contemporary world? Wide agreement was reached at the consultation that teaching should as far as possible, involve all levels of church life and assure the widest participation. The teaching of the Church should not give the impression of imposing rules but rather strengthen attitudes of hope, and give guidance to people in order to cope with contemporary challenges. Finally, it examined the issue of "ecumenical reception". The ecumenical movement has led to many common findings on questions of doctrine and practice. What needs to be done by the churches to appropriate these findings? Agreements need to become common property of the churches.



The issue will be further discussed by the Commission on Faith and Order when it meets next August at Bangalore, India.

The Odessa consultation took place in the building of the Russian Orthodox Church seminary which is situated in the territory of the Dormition Monastery. On behalf of Patriarch Pimen, Metropolitan Sergius of Odessa and Cherson acted as host. The participants were invited to share the celebration of the feast of the Protection of our Lady in Odessa Cathedral. After the consultation, the participants were invited to visit various places in the USSR and to get acquainted with the life of the Russian Orthodox Church. The director of the Faith and Order Secretariat, Dr. Lukas Vischer, paid a special visit to the ancient see of the Armenian Orthodox Church in Holy Etchmiadzin to discuss current aspects of the ecumenical movement.

EPS

#### PATRIARCH PIMEN VISITS CONSTANTINOPLE

Istanbul (EPS) - The normalisation of relations between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, plus the more active participation of these two churches in the activities of the World Council of Churches, were the two points made in a joint communique, made public on 19 October, after the nine-day visit of Patriarch Pimen to the Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios, in Istanbul.

The two churches expressed their wish to develop a more cordial and fraternal relationship "in order to serve the unity of the Orthodox and assist cooperation in the whole life and activity of the Orthodox Church". This includes also the preparation for the Pan-Orthodox Council and the bi-lateral dialogue between the Orthodox Churches and Churches of other Christian traditions.

During the talks the two Patriarchs also expressed their desire to participate more efficiently in the activities of the WCC. "There is a wish to have even more fruitful relations with it", as a spokesman of the ecumenical Patriarchate termed it.

The final statement also indicated the desire to develop friendly relationships with the "non-Christian world". A source indicated that this referred to having relationships with other great world religions and not to Marxist ideology.

The statement's reference to the need for the normalisation of relations between the two churches for the sake of both churches and the whole of Orthodoxy is believed to refer to the autonomy accorded in 1970 by the Moscow Patriarchate, without the agreement of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to the Orthodox Church in America and that in Japan. Such practice is contrary to tradition and has been strongly criticised by the various local Orthodox Churches.

EPS

KOREAN CHRISTIAN MAGAZINE  
CEASES PUBLICATION

Seoul, Korea (EPS) - The Korean magazine "Monthly Dialogue", published by the Korea Christian Academy, has been forced to cease publication because of financial reasons brought on by government action.

The magazine claimed to be the only one in Korea to reach wage earners, youth, farmers and Christians with the express purpose of enlightening them. It had a circulation of around 10,000.

The October edition of the magazine was ordered by the government to be reclaimed from booksellers on the ground that some articles violated an Emergency Decree. This order was a "fatal blow to the already staggering financial condition of the magazine" said Dr. Won Yong Kang, the director of the Academy. He went on: "Our financial troubles began in January, 1977 when a boycott by the advertisers deprived us of any revenue from that source. There has been no explanation of the reason for the boycott nor has there been any admission of any role of the government in the withdrawal of the advertisements. Since April the copies have carried white paper where the advertising might have appeared."

EPS

LAYMAN TO CHAIR  
GDR SYNOD

Herrnhut, German Democratic Republic (EPS) - The third Synod of the Protestant Church Federation in the GDR has, for the first time, elected a layman as its head. The 62 Synod representatives met from 21 to 23 October in Herrnhut, United Brethren Centre, and elected Siegfried K. Wahrmann, who works in the textile trade, as their chairman. The Executive Committee of the Federation re-elected Bishop Albrecht Schoenherr as President. The Vice-Presidents will be the Lutheran-Bishop of Magdebourg, Werner Krusche, and the President of the Chancellery of the Church of Saxony, Kurt Domsch.

The Synod heard reports on the activities of the Secretariat, the "Diakonisches Werk", the Interior Mission, and the social work. Mr. Ernst Petzold explained that the Protestant Diaconate in the GDR could not be expanded because of insufficient funds and personnel. The problem now is to consolidate experience and direct it to situations and needs.

In a Press Conference, Bishop Kursche stated that many citizens of the GDR have asked to emigrate and have appealed to the churches for help. He recalled that in the 1950s the churches already wanted people to stay in the GDR. "Today, Christians should not firstly ask "what their rights are ? but what is their responsibility to those who are obliged to remain in the country", declared the Bishop. However, he continued, "The state should not concentrate firstly on ensuring security at its borders but on making life easier."

The Bishop also indicated that some people wanted to move because of such things as family ties but others suffer because of difficulties of integrating into the society. "If we cannot heal them shouldn't we let them go ?" said Bishop Krusche.

He continued: "The Church has a duty to help those who have asked to emigrate and have been refused and, in consequence, have been marginalised from society. The church should help these people reintegrate", concluded the Bishop.

EPS



ECUMENISM "NEAR THE CENTRE OF  
MEANING OF CHRISTIAN FAITH" SAYS REPORT

Boston (EPS) - A report from the Massachusetts Council of Churches says that the ecumenical movement, which is suffering from lack of funding, programmes and public acclaim, may be a victim of its own limited successes.

The report, called "Odyssey Toward Unity", says organizations such as councils of churches have "floundered without directions" because they "have lost (or never possessed) a sense of their fundamental importance.

Identifying the purpose of the ecumenical movement as "the unification of the Christian Churches", the report says that division in Christianity is "a serious contradiction of the Gospel".

The report adds that the ecumenical movement's limited successes have caused some churches and individuals to be "resting smugly" over satisfaction with current cooperation without seeking further achievements. Others are frightened because further progress will call for merging denominations and the "half-hearted are showing withdrawal symptoms".

Councils of churches have been "primary vehicles for the churches in expressing social mission", says the report and adds that this social involvement has probably cost many councils needed support.

This is still a "pre-ecumenical age," the report states, but ecumenism "will not die... the demand for unity is near the centre of meaning of the Christian faith."

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BOOK CORNER

A number of publications have recently been published by the WCC and are available from the addresses listed below.

"The World Council of Churches and Bank Loans to Apartheid". This describes in detail the WCC's struggle, over almost five years, to persuade the European-American Banking Corporation and its six member banks to end their loans to the Government of South Africa. (Price: Swiss Francs 6.50).

"Faith in the midst of Faiths" records the papers given at the Chiang Mai, Thailand, theological consultation, in April, 1977. (Price: Swiss Francs 12.50).

Another book on the same subject is: "Dialogue and Community", subtitled Ecumenical Issues in Inter-Religious Relationships. This volume is published jointly by the Swedish Institute of Missionary Research, Uppsala, Sweden and the WCC. (Price: Swiss Francs 8.90).

WCC PUBLICATIONS is a brochure describing new World Council books, periodicals, and audio-visuals. It can be ordered free of charge and is mainly intended for book-shop managers.

World Council of Churches, Publications Office, P.O. Box 66, 150 Route de Ferney, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

WCC, New York Office, Suite 1062, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 10027, NY.

British Council of Churches, 2 Eaton Gate, London, SW1W 9BT. (Please note new address).

Anglican Book Centre, 600 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2J6, Canada.

Uitgeversmij J. H. Kok Bv, Postbus 130, Kampen, Holland.

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MEMORIAL CHURCH OPENED IN  
MATO GROSSO

By Charles Harper, WCC Staff

Ribeirão Bonito, Mato Grosso, Brazil (EPS) - Peasant families from Agua Limpa and Mata de Banana, priests from Rio Grande do Sul and Maranhão and representatives from the Bororo and Xavante Indian peoples all descended on the village of Ribeirão Bonito on 11 October. An Auxiliary Bishop from the city of São Paulo walked with children still dripping wet from their afternoon swim in the creek which winds through this tiny village deep in the heartlands of Brazil's Mato Grosso. Firecrackers and dust punctuated a remarkable celebration on that day which celebrated the first anniversary of the death of a Catholic Priest, Father João Bosco Burnier, and the birth of a new church building.

In October, 1976, the assassination of the Jesuit Priest by a local policeman was widely reported and galvanized the people of Ribeirão Bonito into the physical destruction of the village jail. Accompanied by the Bishop of the region in the Northern Mato Grosso, Dom Pedro Casaldáliga, Father Bosco was interceding with the police on behalf of the two innocent women who were being tortured in the jail. Things happened fast: a push, a blow and the shot which many people believe, in a case of mistaken identity, had been intended for Dom Pedro.

A rough solid cross was planted by the people of this 400-strong hamlet in front of the ruins of the jail. Confiscated by the police, it was finally recovered in time for the inauguration of the new church building. Honest, hardworking "posseiros" (landless peasants), working collectively, built the new church in only three months, learning to match hammer blows and brick brigades with the rythm of a new song:

Let us make of our union our strength  
Of liberty our new home  
On the land, which is God's and ours also  
He who knows how to be a brother  
Can stay.

Land, or the "latifundio" system, has plagued Brazil's 400-year history since the white man came. From a colonial system which bled the poor, to a capitalist system which now only enriches stockholders of Japanese-based transnationals has meant no change for the areas' peoples. The vast 100,000 square-kilometres area around Ribeirão Bonito is studded with hundreds of small villages, peopled since 1910 with migrants from the neighbouring states of Pará, Goiás, Amazonas, Piauí.

The 30 million Brazilian peasants now making up the population of Northern Brazil - almost one-third of the country's population - are victims of economic marginalization, non-existent state aid and subsistence farming of corn and rice crops. They have become objects of police harrassment, and the day-to-day violence of insecurity of livelihood on land which has been fraudently acquired by large national and transnational companies. The "capanga" - a hired company thug - is a feared and hated symbol of the new "owners" of the land, threatening the people, burning their huts and stealing their harvests.

The procession, on 11 October, moved slowly from the local football field along the wide dusty federal highway BR-158. It was preceded by Zê, Carlos and other men carrying the cross, and flanked by white-robed bishops

and priests (thirty from all over Brazil) and the other 500 participants. It passed the now rebuilt jail, where 18 of the 80 specially brought in police agents from Cuiabá huddled behind cement sacks blocking the entrance, fully armed ("wetting their pants", commented a local, laughing), in the groundless fear that these people of God would once again sack the jail. This year, however, popular religious songs replaced the shouts, as the crowd moved into the new church.

Many people spoke and gave testimony not only to the martyrdom of Father João but the daily martyrdom of the people. All had something to say, to tell, to celebrate. Among those present were the Rev. James Wright, representative in Brasil of the United Presbyterian Church, USA, and Missionary Manoel de Mello, of the Pentecostal Church, "O Brasil para Cristo", and president of the Brazilian ecumenical service agency CESE - whose membership includes the Episcopal Church of Brazil, the Methodist Church of Brazil, and the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (Roman Catholic). Speaking as a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee, Missionary de Mello joined with all of us who were there to express our ecumenical commitment to the people of the area.

It was a moving service, packed, restrained, joyful, it expressed the courage and determination of the people of Ribeirão Bonito, to remain firm in their faith and in their struggle for their basic human rights.

EPS

(See Photo Oikumene in this issue).

#### EAST-WEST LIAISON POST CREATED BY NCCC

New York (EPS) - Ms. Barbara Green has been appointed to the newly-created post of liaison officer for East-West relations in the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. She plans to develop a wide range of informal, personal contacts with church leaders and members in the German Democratic Republic and to conduct an extensive visitation programme to East German Churches outside of Berlin. She will be based in West Berlin where she will spend one day a week on pastoral work.

One of Ms. Green's responsibilities will be to observe parish and ecumenical life and report her observations to both the NCCC and the East German churches.

Talking of her new appointment Ms. Green said that the East and West each need to understand the other's relationship to Third World nations.

Ms. Green will be especially concerned with church work in adult Christian education. She will explore the churches' involvement in social service institutions and their interest in disarmament and human rights.

Ms. Green graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1976. Following her graduation from the College of Wooster (Ohio) in 1972, she spent two years in post-graduate study at the University of Heidelberg School of Theology. In 1975 she served as assistant to the director of a study-travel programme in Germany for students of the College of Wooster.

EPS



CODE OF PRACTICE REJECTED FOR  
CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST BY WOMEN

London (EPS) - The idea of a code of practice to guide bishops of the Church of England when faced with illegal celebrations of the eucharist by women priests ordained in other provinces of the Anglican Communion was rejected by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan, in answer to a question at the General Synod of the Church of England, meeting in London from 8 to 11 November.

Asked if the bishops would try to ensure that the Church of England's canons on this subject would be "respected if not enforced", Dr. Coggan said he felt that the two diocesan bishops concerned - Bishop Patrick Rodger of Manchester and Bishop Ronald Bowlby of Newcastle - had been quite clear, as had he himself and the Archbishop of York, Dr. Stuart Blanch, in a statement they had issued to the press. In this statement the Archbishops had deplored the involvement of priests, in Manchester and Newcastle, in the celebration of Holy Communion by the Rev. Alison Palmer of the American Episcopal Church, and deeply regretted that they had disregarded the Church's law. They also appealed to clergy not to encourage such illegal acts.

In an answer to another question the Bishop of Truro, Dr. Graham Leonard, speaking as Chairman of the Board for Social Responsibility, rejected the suggestion that membership of the National Front (an extreme right-wing organization now enjoying a rise in popularity in the UK) should be declared to be incompatible with the service of the Church. The suggestion came from the Rev. Paul Oestreicher, the south London vicar who is Chairman of the British section of Amnesty International.

He felt this was needed in view of the reported recruitment by the National Front of a number of clergymen. He thought it was becoming a matter of what the confessing church in Nazi Germany had called "status confessionis, a matter of true faith whether a Christian is or is not willing to repudiate a particular political party."

The Bishop of Truro, however, though he said he could not see how any priest could fulfil his responsibility of avoiding anything that would make his pastoral work more difficult while supporting the National Front's stated attitudes towards black people in Britain, felt that ultimately it must be a matter for an individual man's conscience. "The church would be ill-advised to declare membership of particular organizations inconsistent with service of the Church", he said.

The synod also accepted a private member's motion, from Canon Douglas Rhymes of the Southwark diocese, calling for a new look at the whole Christian theology of sexuality in the light of present theological and psychiatric understanding.

Christians were moving away from the idea that had dominated the church's thinking for centuries, the idea that sexuality was for procreation, said Canon Rhymes. "The emphasis has shifted from a biological view of sexual unity to a view that basically sexual relationship is the expression of emotional and spiritual relationship", he went on.

The church was also moving away from a suspicious, "government health warning attitude" to sexuality towards a recognition that sexual expression

(more)

was good and joyful. "If we are to be constructively against the appallingly mechanical attitudes to sexuality of the so-called permissive society in which the bondage of knowing all the techniques had replaced the bondage of 'thou shalt not'," he said, "then we must far more clearly be able to make positive statements about the goodness of sexual relationships and sexual values and be able to speak in sexual terms of the value of love, commitment, joy, and creativity."

EPS

#### INCREASED PRESSURE TO END LOANS TO SOUTH AFRICA

London (EPS) - The pressure group ELTSA (End Loans to South Africa) has launched, this week, a call to the British Churches to increase economic pressure on South Africa by halting bank loans.

A statement calling for specific action has been sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan, and to the General Secretary of the British Council of Churches, Rev. Harry Morton, as well as other church leaders. The specific action called for is detailed as: "A public commitment by UK based Midland, Hill Samuel and Standard Chartered Banks to end loans to the South African Government and its agencies; the fulfilment of Barclays Bank's stated intention to persuade its South African subsidiary to sell Defence Bonds in December (the earliest possible legal date for doing so), and the cessation of Export Credits, initially to the South African Government, but ultimately to all companies operating in South Africa."

The first point refers to statements made by the Midland Chairman at the last Annual General Meeting, and information that the Europe American Banking Corporation (EABC) - the US bank which managed the loans in which Midland participated - are no longer making such loans. This indicates that the Bank may be contemplating a change in its previous policy but a public commitment is sought in the same way that EABC has done.

The second point refers to the December 1976 purchase by Barclays National of South Africa of £6.5 million Defence Bonds, regarded by ELTSA as direct support for the military policies of the South African Government. Black leaders in South Africa, Christians and otherwise, have privately condemned such loans.

The point about seeking to end Export Credit Guarantees for all trade with the South African Government, is a new departure for ELTSA, but is seen as essential if sufficient economic pressure is to be brought to persuade that Government to end its oppression of black South Africans, and change its policies in the fundamental manner required.

The ELTSA statement points out that some banks in Holland and the USA have stated that they will make no further loans and have admitted that pressure by the churches has been a factor in their decision.

A number of international church bodies have indicated their support for the statement, including the All-Africa Conference of Churches, the Caribbean Conference of Churches, the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches, the World Methodist Council, church bodies in the USA and Canada, and the Christian Institute of South Africa, from its external headquarters in the Netherlands.

EPS



DISCIPLES' EXPRESS CONCERN  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Kansas City, Mo. (EPS) - The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recently adopted a resolution on religious freedom and human rights in Communist-dominated areas after broadening its scope and deleting portions that were critical of the World Council of Churches.

The resolution, submitted by the University Christian Church of Normal, Ill., was highly critical of the WCC for its alleged lack of balance in the area of human rights. It spoke of what it called "ecumenical appeasement" and a "zone of silence" in regard to rights violations in Communist countries.

Some delegates felt the resolution was inaccurate in its description of WCC policies, and also feared that it was one-sided in only focussing on human rights violations in Communist countries. But there was a reluctance to vote the resolution down, since it would put the Assembly on record as not voicing concern about human rights violations.

The revised resolution decried "the continuing violation of religious freedom and the repression of human rights" by countries who have signed the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

While the statement put the Assembly on record as expressing "dismay concerning such violations of religious freedom and human rights in Communist dominated areas", it also decried "such occasional violations as occur in our own countries of the United States and Canada and in other signatory countries as well".

The resolution urged that the matter be brought to the attention of the WCC "for their handling in the most effective way while exercising caution so as not to increase the risk of further persecution of our brothers and sisters who are so involved".

EPS

TOTH ELECTED BISHOP OF HUNGARIAN  
REFORMED CHURCH

Budapest (EPS) - Dr. Karoly Toth has been elected as Bishop of the Reformed Church in Hungary. He is well-known in ecumenical circles as the General Secretary of the Christian Peace Conference and as the person responsible for foreign relations in his own church.

In a message sent on the occasion of his consecration, Dr. Philip Potter, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, said that Dr. Toth "has brought to his significant role considerable gifts of intellectual power, theological and spiritual depth, physical and moral resilience, human friendliness and good humour. He has increased the mutual understanding between the churches in the socialist states and those of other countries. We are immensely grateful for his many services to the ecumenical movement".

EPS

THEODOSIUS, FIRST AMERICAN TO HEAD  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Montreal (EPS) - The Orthodox Church in America has chosen as its new spiritual head Bishop Theodosius of Pittsburgh and West Virginia. Aged 44, he is not only the youngest Metropolitan in the history of his church but he is also the first native born American to attain that position.

At the Church's convention here, Bishop Theodosius was named by the Church's 12 bishops despite the fact that he did not win the election by clergy and lay delegates. He failed to obtain a two-thirds majority on the first ballot, and came in 169 votes behind Bishop Dmitri of Hartford on the second. But the Bishops were not bound by the election results and chose Bishop Theodosius as the new Metropolitan. No reason was given. He succeeds 85-year-old Metropolitan Ireney.

The Orthodox Church in America was given full independence from the Patriarchate of Moscow in 1970. It counts on some one million faithful in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

EPS

CHILDREN MAY BE ADMITTED TO  
LUTHERAN COMMUNION

Bad Gandershein, FRG (EPS) - The Lutheran Churches in West Germany have decided that they have no objection to the participation of children in Holy Communion. This was the position adopted, at the end of October in Bad Gandershein during the Synod of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in West Germany (VELKD) which groups together nearly all the Lutheran churches in the country.

In a document presented to the Synod by the authorities of the VELKD it is noted that: "baptized children should not be prevented in principle from participating in the Holy Communion". This is dependent on the participants knowing the meaning of the Sacrament. This is why the parents are invited to promote the understanding of the children and to accompany them physically and spiritually to the celebration of the Eucharist. The joyful experience of the young in a shared eucharist in a parish setting at the communion table will have more significance for the young than simple verbal teaching.

Given these conditions the Synod said that there is no objection to admitting school-age children to Holy Communion whenever it is desired and spiritually advisable.

EPS

WCC APPOINTS CONSULTANT  
ON CHARISMATICS

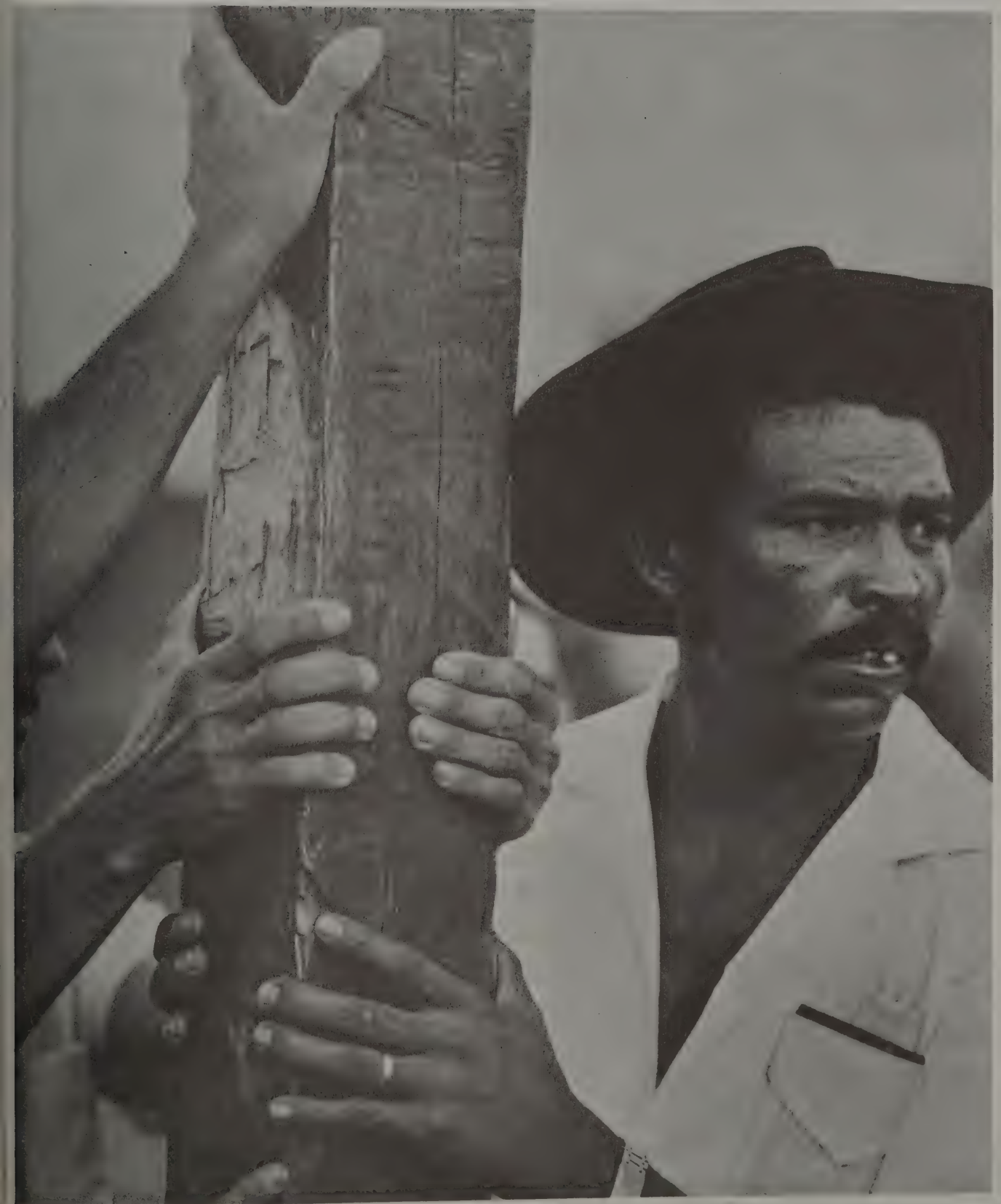
Geneva (EPS) - Arnold Bittlinger, a pastor from the Federal Republic of Germany, will, in 1978, become the World Council of Churches Staff Consultant on the charismatic renewal. Dr. Bittlinger, studied in Europe, North America, and the Bossey Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies. A leading figure within the charismatic renewal, he has written extensively on the significance of this movement for the churches.

In an unusual arrangement, he will serve the parish of Oberhallau, in the Swiss Canton of Schaffhausen, while working part-time with the WCC's sub-unit on Renewal and Congregational Life.

EPS



# photo oikoumene





2035

2036



The tiny village of Ribeirao Bonito, in the heartlands of Brazil, was the scene recently of a courageous ecumenical celebration. One year after the killing of Father Joao Bosco Brunier, a Jesuit priest who defended the rights of landless peasants, the small community invited Dom Pedro Casadáliga, along with people and leaders of the churches in Brazil, to inaugurate its new church. On 11 October, 500 persons from all over Brazil - including Indians, peasants and lay-workers from North and South - joined Bishops, Priests and Pastors in an open and eucharistic affirmation of unity with the people of the village, in their struggle against police brutality and the threat of expulsion by absentee multinational and national landowners. Charles Harper of the World Council of Churches staff was present and took the photographs. (Full story on page 2.)

(2035) One of the original pioneers of this vast region of 100,000 sq. km. in the Mato Grosso.

(2036) These landless peasants headed the procession from the football field.

(2037) The procession at dusk was a festival of song and affirmation.

(2038) Pastor Manoel de Mello, leader of the Pentecostal Church "O Brasil para Cristo", represented the Central Committee of the WCC. He is seen here with "the future of Brazil".

(2039) Inscribed in cement near the church the words: "The cross which the people planted on 18 October, 1976, on the spot where Father Joao Bosco was martyred".

(2040) The new church was built with the collective effort of the 250 families near the old police station.

(2041) the consecration of the new building was carried out by Bishop Casadáliga, assisted by a friend, a representative in full formal attire, of the Mato Grosso Indian peoples.

Photos COE.



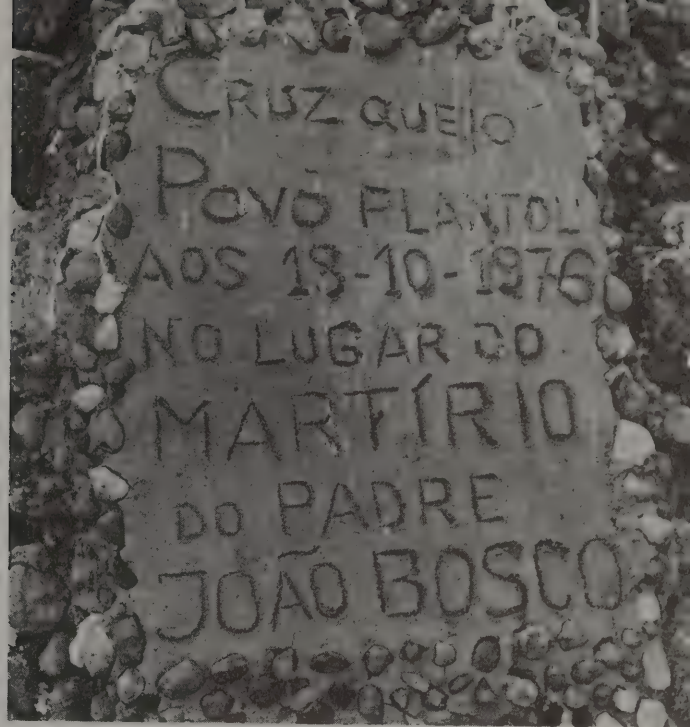


# VILLAGERS BUILD MEMORIAL CHURCH



2037

2038



2039



2040

2041







2042

2043



(2042) Pope Shenouda III, (right) spiritual head of the five million strong Egyptian Coptic Church, on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of St. Mark's Coptic Hospital, Cairo, by President Sadat, on 11 October. (Story: EPS No. 29, 20 October.)

(2043) Archbishop Donald Coggan (centre) breaking bread with Supreme Catholicos Vasken I of Echmiadzin (Armenia) during his visit to the USSR at the beginning of October. (Story: EPS No. 28, 6 October.)

(2044) A local style picnic: the "Pacifique '77" conference in the Solomon Islands demonstrated that other styles of living and development are possible for the Pacific Islanders. (Story: EPS No. 27, 28 September )





# EPS

## Ecumenical Press Service

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32/44th Year

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Christmas Message 1977

by Dr. Philip Potter, General Secretary of  
the World Council of Churches

"There was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). With these sober, chilling words we are told why Christ was born in a stable. It is a constant paradox that at Christmas we always emphasize generous extravagance and open hospitality. And yet the birth of our Saviour, Christ the Lord, was far from being humanly generous or hospitable. In fact, it represents the lot of millions of people in today's world.

No room in our world for the 40 per cent poorest in the poor countries who are ignored and left to rot and die. No room in many a place for people because they are black or yellow, or because they are migrant workers, or women. No room for those who go against the stream of their directionless communities who are dominated by egoism. No room for those who in deep conscience dissent from the oppressive rigidities and undemocratic structures of their societies. No room for millions of homeless refugees all over the world. No room for the lonely, the distressed, the failures, the handicapped, the old. No room for the spiritually bereft and hungry.

And so the catalogue can go on of this clear tendency to marginalise people, push or keep them out of the house and leave them in a stable. But even the stable of Bethlehem was hospitable enough compared with our modern stables. Shepherds and angels and wise men coming from afar were all at home with Mary and Joseph and the Babe. Our modern stables may be drought or desert or inundated land. It may be city slum or the lonely road of drug-addiction. It may be a psychiatric clinic, concentration camps, or the torture chamber. It may be the loss of work and social acceptance, or it may be the open rejection of one's convictions. It may be the front line of extermination in all the small vicious wars of our time.

For all those who find themselves in these stables, the message of Christmas is that Christ came to identify himself with their condition as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger in a stable. "We know," says Paul, as he appeals to the Corinthians to contribute to the needy, "how generous our Lord Jesus Christ has been: he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

And yet, Luke paints a wide canvas as he depicts the birth of Christ. He speaks of the census which was ordered by Ceasar Augustus and when Quirinius (probably Saturninus) was governor of Syria. And that census was for the whole world, oikoumene. This is one of the rare occasions when this word is used. The birth of Christ is therefore a significant event in the history of the whole inhabited earth, though Luke, like the Hellenists of the time, would limit the oikoumene to the Roman Empire. Christ's birth in a stable of a small town in a conquered province of the Empire represents even more starkly God's purpose to carry out his work of liberation and reconciliation on the margin of the oikoumene and with those who are or know themselves to be marginalised. But what he did in the stable of Bethlehem and later on the hill of Golgotha points to his purpose for the whole oikoumene.

Bethlehem, "house of bread", hardly provided that hospitality to Christ. Yet it is he who says to us: "The bread which I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51). It is this self-giving love, this grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which we are offered at this Christmastide.

(more)



and which turns every stable, every marginalised existence, into a house of bread where we are truly companions, sharing the same bread of life. It is also a call to us, more than ever to continue God's liberating ministry in Christ on behalf of all who are on the margin and who need the message of hope in word and deed. It is the call to offer to the marginalised the generous love of Christ, which is his peace, the wholeness, the all-including well-being for all.

May this Christmastide summon us afresh to take up God's glorious cause of liberation and peace in justice and community for and with all who are in the stable, on the margin of our oikoumene, that our world may increasingly become an oikos, a home where the bread of life is shared.

#### SYNOD IN SOLIDARITY WITH BANNED ORGANIZATIONS

London (EPS) - In an emergency debate, the General Synod of the Church of England showed its solidarity with the banned organizations in South Africa and in particular the Christian Institute, by unanimously supporting a resolution which welcomed the Archbishop of Canterbury's telegram of protest to the South African president last month and which called on Anglicans not only to pray for those who had been banned but to contribute to the British Council of Churches Christian Institute Fund. A collection at the Synod service of Holy Communion on the day of the debate raised almost £ 250 for the fund.

At the conclusion of the brief debate Synod members stood in silent tribute to all those who had been killed while in police custody.

The debate, said the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan, would be one more blow against a system that all men of Christian conviction must hate. It would register their detestation at what was going on. "It may not achieve much, but it will achieve something," he said. It was an act of solidarity with their Christian brethren in South Africa - and with others besides "like that noble Jewish woman Helen Suzman who has battled away for years".

Earlier that day the Synod had heard the Bishop of Truro, Dr. Graham Leonard, call on the British government to provide some kind of political forum or representative assembly in Northern Ireland to counter a sense of impotence among ordinary people there.

The Synod also called on members of the Church of England to write to their Members of Parliament urging them to press the British government to raise British aid to development projects to the United Nations target level of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. Not only that, but Anglicans were asked to stress their willingness to pay their share of any extra taxes that might be needed to make this possible.

EPS

## WSCF SENDS TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO CHINA

Geneva (EPS) - Two representatives of the World Student Christian Federation have just completed a study trip to China. This has been announced by the international organization from its headquarters in Geneva.

Rev. Neil Cortez (Asia region) and Mr. Gassen Salame (Middle East region) were those who participated in the trip from 11-28 October. The visit was organized by the Non Governmental Organizations based in Geneva. Rev. Emidio Campi, general secretary of the WSCF since July this year, said of the visit: "To my knowledge this is the first time that an international ecumenical organization has sent representatives to China since the revolution".

Early in its history the WSCF had close contacts with China. In 1921 it held its General Assembly in Peking. After the revolution of 1949 it published an in depth study of the country entitled: "China: a revolutionary country".

The results of this latest visit will be published in a diary, and in dossiers together with a set of transparencies, said Mr. Campi.

EPS

## CCIA HOSTS UN DIPLOMATS

New York (EPS) - As part of its programme of involving United Nations' diplomats with its work, Ambassador Olle Dahlén, moderator of the Churches Commission on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches recently co-hosted with Ms. Alice Wimer, Staff Associate for International Affairs of the National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC) - USA, a dinner in New York, where the guest of honour was Archbishop Edward Scott, moderator of the Central Committee of the WCC.

This effort to bring together representatives of WCC leadership and UN diplomats for informal talks about common concerns illustrates one of the ways the CCIA attempts, together with Christians in positions of responsibility, to bring a positive influence to bear on the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies.

UN representatives at the dinner included Ambassador Gwendoline Konie, Zambia, chairman of the UN Council for Namibia, and Lucille Mair, the Jamaican minister, who is this year's chairman of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, dealing with social and humanitarian affairs. Both are CCIA Commissioners.

Other UN personalities present were the Danish UN Ambassador, Wilh Ulrichssen, Djoha Yoiwono, from the Indonesian UN Mission, and the director of the UN Human Rights Commission, Dr. Theo van Boven.

Two representatives of the NCCC - USA were present. William P. Thompson, president, and general secretary, Dr. Claire Randall, who is also a vice-moderator of the CCIA. Other church people present were Rev. Dr. J. Oscar McCloud, a member of the WCC Central Committee and Dr. Lamar Gibble, CCIA Commissioner who is Peace and International Affairs Consultant of the Church of the Brethren.

EPS



CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS DISCUSS  
FAITH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Beirut (EPS) - Christians and Muslims should try to work together actively, in order to sustain the natural world, to rebuild society and to give meaning to life and death. Ecology, sociology and theology belong together no less than do faith, science and technology. These thoughts emanated from a discussion on the theme "Faith, Science and Technology and the Future of Humanity", between a group of Christians, Muslims and one Druze, who met in Beirut, Lebanon, 14-18 November, at the invitation of the World Council of Churches.

Participants included people from Lebanon, India, Pakistan, Canada, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, whose interests and studies ranged from physics, chemistry, bio-chemistry and agriculture to sociology, educational psychology and history of religions.

The Consultation considered its theme on four levels: Christians' and Muslims' commitment to faith in one God; commitment to pursuit of science; commitment to responsible use of technology, and commitment to hope for the future of humanity.

Under the first section emphasis was placed on personal faith in God which needs to be expressed in prayer and in action both in a relationship with God and with one's fellows but also in a relationship with the natural world. The consultation recognized that humanity has wrought havoc with the balance of nature but belief was expressed that a redeeming and forgiving God makes "a new creation" available within history if people are obedient to his revealed will and purpose.

In so far as science represents a search for the truth about God's created world, it can claim our reverent and enthusiastic pursuit, concluded this consultation, in taking a positive view of science and its discoveries. The group went on to declare that "Wonder and mystery at God's creations need not be stifled by new observations and evidences about, for example, processes of evolution." Christian and Muslim scientists expressed the opinion that their faith in God is strengthened rather than weakened by their researches.

Consultation participants were greatly influenced by their mutual involvement in the suffering and willingness to suffer, of potential defeat and ultimate victory for persons as they plunge into the present technological crisis. Discussion on appropriate technology and a rejection of pure materialism also formed part of the talks which declared that: "technology would be a blessing rather than a curse provided it was disciplined by moral and political principles of participation and justice.

With faith in God, a responsible pursuit of science, and appropriate application of technology the participants expressed the hope of being able to contribute to a better future for each other and for their neighbours.

The consultation concluded that: "In a world where threats of mass destruction, wholesale pollution, and physical, moral and spiritual poverty are real, it is irresponsible to speak of hope for the created world and for humanity unless we are prepared to act - to live out our faith, of the material and the spiritual, of this world and the next world. We need to fulfil our own God-given potential as individuals and communities, but, as Christians and Muslims, we believe that we can only do this by serving the needs of our neighbours and by serving God."

(more)

The fact that the meeting took place in Beirut gave a sense of urgency and realism to the discussions. It was impossible to be complacent about inter-religious brotherhood or about the achievements of modern technology as delegates looked out on ruined buildings and ruined lives. However, it was felt that the Lebanese peoples' will for reconstruction and reconciliation was a sign of hope for other situations in a world where communal violence and physical destruction are evident.

EPS

#### CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA DISCUSS ORDINATION OF WOMEN

New Delhi (EPS) - The Church of North India - a merger of Anglicans, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, Brethren, Disciples and Methodists - has given cautious approval to the ordination of women to the ministry.

At the Church's Third General Synod, delegates voted on a proposal to allow their 22 member dioceses to have women ministers "if the (individual) diocesan council agrees to the ordination of women."

The resolution was passed by the Synod only after a prolonged debate.

A woman minister would not, however, be guaranteed a Bishop's license or employment by any other diocese.

At present, only eight diocesan councils seem to be decisively in favour of the ordination of women.

The Rev. E.S. Nasir, the Church's moderator said the resolution contained "due safeguards for conscientious differences of opinion". Implementation of the measure will be discussed at the next Synod.

EPS

#### FORMER WCC STAFF MEMBER DIES

Hassocks, England (EPS) - The Rev. Dr. Herbert Alfred Hamilton, BA, deputy general secretary of the World Council of Churches from 1965-66 died on 13 November at his home here.

Herbert Hamilton was a minister of the Congregational Church (now part of the United Reformed Church in Great Britain). He was Minister of churches in Bolton (1924-29) and Birmingham (1929-33), before being appointed as Secretary of the Youth and Education Department of the Congregational Union in England and Wales, a position he held until 1945. In that year he was appointed Principal of the Westhill Training College, Selly Oak, Birmingham. In 1954 he was Minister of the Union Church, Brighton, a position he held until 1963. During his period at Brighton he was (1961-62) chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

From 1963-65 Dr. Hamilton was the Associate General Secretary of the World Council of Christian Education, in Geneva and was appointed WCC deputy general secretary one year before his retirement in 1966.

EPS



LUKAS VISCHER RECEIVES  
HONORARY DEGREE

Fribourg (EPS) - In its Academic Awards for 1977 the Swiss University of Fribourg conferred, on 15 November, honorary doctoral degrees on four people including Dr. Lukas Vischer of the World Council of Churches.

The citation referred to the leadership which Dr. Vischer has given to the studies and consultations on important ecumenical themes such as the Fathers of the Church and the Councils, the Practice of Conciliarity, The Ecclesial Responsibility of Maintaining the Doctrine of the Faith and also the understanding shown in the study One Baptism, One Eucharist and a Mutually Recognized Ministry.

For all these efforts Lukas Vischer is said to be "an effectual proponent of Christian Unity in the service for peace and reconciliation between men", noted the citation.

Born in Basle in 1926 Lukas Vischer studied at the Universities of Basle, Strasbourg, Göttingen and Oxford. He is a Doctor of Theology of the University of Basle and Honorary Doctor of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Prague since 1969. He began his work in the WCC in 1961, and was an official WCC representative at the Second Vatican Council. He was made director of the Faith and Order Unit in 1966. He is co-secretary of the joint Roman Catholic/WCC working group.

Among his numerous publications is his latest work, produced under his direction with Johannes Feiner, "Common Catechism".

EPS

BISHOP TUTU NAMED GENERAL  
SECRETARY OF SACC

Johannesburg (EPS) - Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu has been appointed as the new general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, from 1 January.

He replaces Rev. John Thorne, who resigned in October for personal reasons after only a few months in that position.

The post was offered to Bishop Tutu about a year ago, but at that time the Anglican Bishops found that they could not let Bishop Tutu free from his responsibilities as Bishop of Lesotho which he took up in August 1976.

Desmond Tutu was for a time Dean of the Anglican Cathedral of St. Mary, in Johannesburg. He is well known for his stand against apartheid. Last 25 September, he preached a sermon against the white regime during the funeral of black consciousness leader Steve Biko. Bishop Tutu will be the first black general secretary of the SACC which groups together the principal South African churches. Also well-known in international ecumenical circles Desmond Tutu is a member of the Standing Committee of Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.

EPS

(The following story was released to the Press on Monday 21, November.)

CHURCHES PLAN PROGRAMME  
FOR PEACE

GENEVA (EPS) 19 November - A wide-ranging programme to galvanize the world's churches into an active programme of information and opposition to the arms race, to nuclear proliferation and to the growing spread of militarism on all continents, was the request which emerged from the consultation on militarism, held 13-18 November, in Glion, Switzerland, and arranged by the Churches Commission on International Affairs on behalf of the Justice and Service unit of the World Council of Churches.

An outline of a programme on militarism, or as some delegates preferred to call it, an "ecumenical action for peace", to be recommended to the WCC's member churches, came in answer to the problem of how the churches can deal with the issues of militarism when many peoples are struggling against oppressive military governments and when the centres of the Christian faith are still in areas which form the greatest threat to human existence.

The consultation brought together some 45 church representatives and experts from every continent and about 30 countries. Ambassador Olle Dahlén, moderator of the CCIA, and Sweden's Ambassador to the United Nations with special responsibility for non-governmental organizations, noted that no other NGO could bring together such a wide-ranging gathering of people to discuss this particular subject.

That the threat of human annihilation exists in today's world was clearly spelt out to the participants by Dr. Michael Klare, of the USA, in his address on "The Issues Today". He spoke not only of the arms race which eats up so much production effort in the developed countries but also of the vastly increased sales of police weapons and what he called "repression technology". Dr. Klare also saw a new breed of person who he called the "technical mercenary". These people, he said, constitute a "new form of colonialism, as people and countries come to rely of them to promote militarism".

But why should the churches be particularly interested in a subject which can only be solved in the political arena? Dr. Anwar Barkat, from Pakistan, moderator of the consultation, in his address: "Why Ecumenical Concern on Militarism?" tried to answer that question.

Militarism, said Barkat, is "a counter movement to development", and "a flagrant affront to human dignity". These two statements alone would be enough to challenge the churches to action. But Dr. Barkat went on to place the ecumenical concern for militarism in the wider pattern of church and WCC concerns. He believed that militarism was a challenge to the just, participatory and sustainable society theme with which churches are grappling at this time, and also contradicted the work toward a new international economic order. The programme to combat

Racism of the WCC, said Barkat, "also came face to face with militarism". Moving on to the historical concern of Christian involvement in war Barkat declared: "Christians can hardly engage in conflict, violence and war with an easy conscience. Use of violence has always been taken as a last resort in the situations where the structures of violence impose unjust solutions upon those who want to live in peace".

(more)



Participants in the discussions soon reflected their home situations. From Latin America, a continent mainly in the grip of military regimes, one delegate expressed the belief that the military represent the armed branch of the transnational corporations and, in the face of such a problem, the churches will not be able to carry out an anti-militarism campaign by themselves but only when they ally themselves with the popular and critical, but politically poor forces of the people.

An African delegate, speaking from a "third-world" standpoint, expressed his belief that militarism is not the dominant problem in his area - that is underdevelopment. However, expenditure on arms does, in some circumstances, slow up or halt development - then it is a cause for concern.

An Asian representative, detailing the struggle of his people against the international effects of militarism said that for him: "The crux of the issue is not on the order of physical violence but is on the level of the mutilation of the human spirit - possessing and subjecting the spirit of the people".

From the USSR came the expressed belief that the economic interests of countries are important, especially as regards employment in the "war industry". This industry, in capitalist countries, reduces unemployment, said the speaker, adding: "This phenomenon does not exist in socialist countries".

It was from an analysis of these issues that the consultation moved on to consider the theological question. Dr. Wolfgang Huber, from West Germany, noted that the old observation that militarism always tends to become a life-style encompassing all spheres of social life", is not outdated.

Referring to the start of the WCC's present concern on militarism, the 5th assembly in Nairobi, 1975 - Dr. Huber quoted an extract from a report to that assembly which noted that: "Military attitudes presuppose aggressive relations between human beings to be not only inevitable but even advantageous. The juxtaposition of oneself to the enemy, and the readiness to use force present an exact counter-image to the interpersonal relationships for which Jesus of Nazareth lived and died." Dr. Huber went on: "Jesus presents a counterimage in his life and style to those forms of behaviour derived from confidence in force. Love of the enemy overcomes hostility, slavery is transformed into freedom, dominance is transformed into service."

Dr. Huber then traced the historical involvement of Christianity with force. He explained that it was only when Christianity entered the sphere of political responsibility - the Constantinian Era - that it disgarded its oldest stance which not only dissociated itself from war and military service but declared military service to be incompatible with Christian faith. By abandoning this first position, said the speaker, "The Christian Church took on mutual responsibility for the belligerent conflicts of the political power with which it was now allied."

The consultation studied the external and internal factors, and the social consequences of militarism as it affects the nation state. It was recognized that the churches have a prophetic task to denounce the structures of injustice which promote and sustain militarism in the world, but it was noted that within the church ideas and institutions have been nurtured which either promote or condone the growth of militarism. These ideas must be eliminated from the thinking of the churches and should form part of the education programme.

A call was also made for an eventual campaign to build up a curriculum for religious and secular education materials to include peace education and information on peace related movements and activities.

(more)

On immediate steps which could be taken by the churches, the consultation asked for consideration to be given to the organization of a Global Peace Week. Also to be considered should be the possibility of a special focus on the subject of church investments in military-related industries.

The question of a "Just War" caused problems between delegates. It was expressed that the WCC should give no credence to the possibility of a "Just War" but should talk only about "Just Peace". Further study was called for on this issue bearing in mind the new weapons of mass destruction and torture, and the struggle for liberation by oppressed peoples.

A further step in the formulation of the whole programme will be taken next March/April with a consultation on disarmament, expected to be held in the Netherlands. EPS

#### METROPOLITAN ILIA APPOINTED ACTING PATRIARCH

Tbilisi (EPS) - The Holy Synod of the Georgian Orthodox Church (USSR) have elected Metropolitan Ilia acting Patriarch. The election was necessary following the death, on 9 November, of Patriarch David V, at the age of 74. David was the 145th Patriarch Catholicus of this three million strong church. His funeral was held on 14 November at the Patriarchal Cathedral of Tbilisi in the presence of delegations from the Russian Orthodox, the Greek Orthodox, and the Armenian Apostolic Churches.

The election of the new Patriarch will take place 40 days after the death of Patriarch David by the seven Bishops who actually comprise the Holy Synod of that Church.

Aged 44, Metropolitan Ilia is a well-known personality in international church circles because of his ecumenical commitment. He has participated in various meetings of the WCC and has, for several years, been a member of the working groups of the WCC's Church and Society department.

During an official visit of four days to Tbilisi, where he represented the WCC, Dr. Lukas Vischer, director of the Faith and Order Unit, expressed the sympathy and prayers of the WCC to the Georgian Orthodox Church which has been a WCC member since 1962.

EPS

#### CORRECTION

In our edition No. 29, 20 October, "CEC Meeting discusses Conciliarity", missed lines at the end of our story may give a misleading impression of the events. The last paragraph should have read: "Principle speakers included Bishop Oliver Tomkins (Anglican, UK), and Professor John Zizioulas (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople), Dom Emmanuel Lanne (Belgium, Roman Catholic), and Rector Christoph Hinz (Protestant Church Federation of the German Democratic Republic). Introductions to the Consultation working groups were given by: Professor Geoffrey Wainwright (Methodist, UK); Rector Hinz and Dr. Lukas Vischer (WCC).

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



November 30th, 1977

33/44th Year

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THE NEXT EPS ISSUE WILL APPEAR ON DECEMBER 8TH, 1977

CARIBBEAN CHURCHES MEET IN  
SECOND ASSEMBLY

Georgetown, Guyana - Delegates to the Second Assembly of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), meeting here 16 - 24 November, are finding in the Guyanese situation a microcosm of the social, economic and political problems of the Caribbean region. While announcing a goal of "cooperative socialism" the government of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham faces mounting criticism for repressive policies - banning of public meetings for opposition parties, racial and political discrimination and denial of human rights - a growing balance of payments deficit, mounting unemployment and stagnation in production.

The Assembly's agenda has been inevitably affected by the host country's situation. In welcoming the delegates to Guyana the Prime Minister said he saw no reason for a "confrontation" between the government and the churches and invited criticism from the Assembly. But, "be sure you have the facts", he warned.

The CCC's General Secretary, Dr. Roy G. Neehall in his report to the Assembly said that there was no lack of facts. The problem, he stated, is that governments in the Caribbean "regard the right to criticize and to express a dissenting voice as subversion". Dr. Neehall added that "the engagement of so many governments in the Caribbean, not in serving the people but in making sure that they remain in power is an exercise that somehow has to be brought under the judgement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ".

Three Cuban Churches are among the eight new members at this Assembly. They bring the total membership of the CCC to 27 groups. The 173 voting delegates from Protestant, Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches represent some 4,000,000 members of all four language groups of the Caribbean. The Roman Catholic Episcopal Conference of the Antilles has been a member from the beginning, all told, some 450 people are here for the Assembly. Besides the voting delegates there are 190 other participants, including fraternal delegates, consultants, and staff, and 87 stewards, interpreters and assistants.

The Assembly theme is "Working Together with Christ". Under the sub-themes of "Proclaiming the Gospel", and "Seeking Community", education, dialogue with other faiths, church unity, cultural identity, employment, racism, socialism, and Caribbean unity are being examined. The continuation committee, meeting here just prior to the Assembly, reappointed the CCC's principal staff officers for new four-year terms: Dr. Roy G. Neehall, (born in Trinidad and a Presbyterian minister), General Secretary: Jamaican-born Moravian Minister Robert Cuthbert, Associate General Secretary for Development and head of Christian Action for Development in the Caribbean (CADEC): and Fr. Kelvin Felix, a Roman Catholic Priest from Dominica, Associate General Secretary for Renewal and head of Action for Renewal of the Church (ARC).

Dr. Neehall has called on the delegates to take a serious look at the churches' involvement in politics, pointing out that such involvement has to be in terms of the will of God regardless of sacrifices entailed.



Speaking on the CCC itself, Dr. Neehall stated that when the movement was launched four years ago its fragility meant that it had to be cautious in its approach in order to keep all 19 church members together. He warned, however, that fragility can no longer be an excuse for "sitting on the fence".

Dr. Philip A. Potter General Secretary of the World Council of Churches spoke to the Assembly 18 November, on human rights. Potter said that the Caribbean's history was "one unending, tragic tale of the denial and violation of human rights," and that "no area of the world has suffered so long and systematically from the blatant disregard of human rights". He said that "the whole apparatus of government and the habit of mind of those who hold power and of those who do not are geared to disrespecting and abusing the rights of the people." He rejected the concept of the status of the Caribbean man as being one of hopelessness, however. "We could not have survived without a deep sense and sensibility of our inner being, our dignity as human beings, in spite of the constant and destructive denials."

Turning to the position of the churches in the human rights struggle, Dr. Potter said that for the Caribbean the one institution which has "made fitful efforts to assert and defend human rights has been the Church. The very proclamation of the Gospel was a declaration of human rights".

Dr. Potter then reviewed some of the statements which have, through the years and throughout the world, committed the church and world bodies to the fight for human rights. But, he said, "In spite of these statements, Churches and Christians are still hesitant about being deeply involved in the struggle for the recognition and promotion of human rights. They are often hung up on the fear of being political and not carrying out their proper task of proclaiming the Gospel. It is interesting that all the forces which deny or violate human rights are eager that the Churches should restrict their activities to worship and preaching within the confines of their communities. This suspicious encouragement should warn the churches to rethink their self-understanding and their mission in the world."

Turning to the Biblical reasons for the churches concern over the question of human rights, Dr. Potter said that human rights are based on God's right to and his claim on human beings.

The Christian's understanding of human rights goes back to the creation, explained the WCC leader, because "God made humankind in his own image". That means, he went on, that "God in his freedom has created a companion to enjoy his freedom. He also created humanity, male and female. Within the unity of mankind is created otherness, that fellowship with others which is the true hallmark of the image of God".

Dr. Potter then went on to say that human rights are liberation for the life of truth, faithfulness, steadfast love, justice and peace, but also liberation to take part in tilling, keeping and replenishing the earth for the good of all.

Dr. Potter concluded his address by naming six basic human rights for which, he said, "we must struggle in the Caribbean today". These six points were the right to basic guarantees for life; to self-determination and cultural identity and the rights of minorities; to participate in decision-making within the community; and to dissent". On this point Dr. Potter emphasised

that dissent should be encouraged and safeguarded but that "it can only be creatively exercised by those who have the clarity of vision which comes from discerning the rights of others within God's purpose for all who are prepared to place themselves on the line, like the prophets and Christ himself."

Dr. Potter's last two points were: the right to personal dignity and the right to religious freedom.

The Assembly elected three Presidents for the next four-year period. They are the Rt. Rev. Neville de Souza, Anglican Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay, a Jamaican; Roman Catholic Archbishop Anthony Pantin, (Port-of-Spain), of Trinidad and Tobago, and, reelected for a second period, Mrs. Dorinda Sampath, a Presbyterian of Trinidad and Tobago. Both Mrs. Sampath and Bishop de Souza are members of the Central Committee of the WCC.

During the last days of the Assembly "Caribbean Contact", the CCC's hard-hitting monthly newspaper, received criticism from some quarters because of its "political orientation", but delegates "reaffirmed their confidence" in the paper and its editorial policy.

To an expression of concern over the high proportion of CCC's budget provided by the Churches outside of the Caribbean (over 90 per cent), General Secretary Roy G. Neehall responded: "We say to all donors, the North Atlantic economy was built up at least in part by the exploitation of the Caribbean and we believe that it is God's will that the North Atlantic should today be a channel through which some of that which was taken away from us is returned."

In a cluster of resolutions taken on the last day of the Assembly human rights concerns dominated. A call for independence and self-determination for Puerto Rico, condemnation of Latin American governments violating human rights, and specific condemnation of the Grenadian links with Chile, were among the resolutions passed.

EPS

#### CHRISTIAN RADIO PROGRAMME AVOIDS RELIGIOUS WORDS

Buenos Aires (EPS) - Tuning in to the radio in this city either in the morning, afternoon or evening, listeners could well hear a five-minute programme proclaiming the Christian message without using the traditional religious words, and linked to modern, popular music. The programme, entitled "Cristo Vive" (Christ Lives) is produced by two Methodist Ministers, Rev. Carlos Valle and Rev. Pablo Sosa. It is produced with the aim of speaking to the problems and needs of the people and uses music, drama, discussions and popular songs to relate the Bible to the questions of faith and life.

Subjects treated in recent programmes have included sickness, ecology, evil, doubt, futurology, death and family problems, and one simply entitled "The happiest day of your life".

The production is based on the Asociación Interconfesional de Estudios Teológicos (AIDET) of Buenos Aires. This organization involves eight denominations in the southern area of South America - Anglican, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Reformed, Waldensian and the German Union Church.

Apart from use on the radio the programmes are used by schools for discussions and an effort is now being made to extend their use to local radio stations in the interior of Argentina.

EPS



RACISM CONDEMNED BY  
BCC AND RC's

LONDON (EPS) - Strongly worded statements affirming that racism is entirely contrary to the Christian gospel have been adopted both by the British Council of Churches and by the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

In a six-point declaration adopted unanimously at its autumn Assembly at Swanwick, Derbyshire, last week the British Council of Churches affirmed its belief "that the racial policies and racial activities of the National Front and other similar bodies are entirely contrary to the truth of the Gospel and contrary to the true interests of this nation." (The National Front is an extreme right-wing movement enjoying growing popularity in Great Britain.)

In a preamble to this affirmation the BCC asked: "Is our whole society to be based on respect, freedom and equality, or on intolerance, inequality and racism? Our traditional ideals of tolerance and respect are being eroded and are in danger of being lost. Some feel that only those who live in mixed areas are involved. On the contrary, it concerns us all.

"Are we as Christians effectively building good relations between communities and helping to overcome the evils of racial hatred? This is surely one of the clearest tests for Christian conscience in this century. There are some commitments which indeed we must affirm."

The whole statement indeed forms a public commitment which Christians are being asked to sign. At Swanwick the first to sign was the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan, who is president of the BCC, followed by all the other members of the BCC Assembly present.

The Roman Catholic Bishops' statement issued 24 November, did not mention the National Front by name. It said: "The Bishops', recognizing that Britain is now a pluralist society of varied races, cultures and religions, wish to state clearly in unmistakable terms:

"(1) That the dignity and rights of every person of whatever race, colour or creed are to be respected.

"(2) That our Catholic community is committed to freedom and racial justice for all.

"(3) That every immigrant has a right to impartial treatment in housing, employment and education and to live in peace with his or her neighbour.

"(4) That any attempt either by individuals or by organizations to promote racial discrimination or to stir up racial hatred is in direct contradiction to Christ's command to love one's neighbour."

EPS

SUPPORT FOR UNCTAD  
COMMON FUND MEETING

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches (WCC) welcomes the resolution unanimously passed at the British Council of Churches Assembly last week concerning the UNCTAD Conference, now meeting in Geneva. The resolution is in line with a statement on the New International Economic Order (NIEO) approved at the Central Committee of the WCC in August.

The resolution of British Council of Churches, whose President is Dr. Donald Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury, has been sent for attention to President Carter of the USA, Chancellor Schmidt of West Germany and Prime Minister Callaghan of Britain.

The resolution reads as follows: "The Assembly urges her Majesty's Government to accept the substance of the current proposals by developing countries in the UNCTAD Conference, now meeting in Geneva, in negotiations for a Common Fund for the stabilization of world commodity prices. The Assembly, believing that the attitude currently identified with Britain, the US and West Germany is a threat to world development and international cooperation, calls on HMG to accept:

- a) That the Common Fund should have its own funds, subscribed by consumer and producer government, with the ability to initiate and fund international commodity agreements:
- b) That the government contributions called for, of one billion dollars paid in and one billion dollars on call, are small in relation to the rate of creation of international liquidity and the benefits available to all from price stabilization:
- c) That the Common Fund should have built in facilities (sometimes called a second window) to assist weaker commodity producers to improve their position through diversification, productivity and marketing arrangements.

The Assembly, believing that the proposals by Britain and other countries for a Common Fund which is a minimal pooling of funds of independent commodity agreements and which allows a credit facility to a commodity scheme of only one-third of its own subscribed funds, are inadequate, is confident that, within the framework proposed by the developing countries it is possible to make progress in world development, safeguarding the financial viability of the common fund, the legitimate interests both of producer and consumer countries, while helping to stabilise commodity prices.

The Assembly, accepting that commodity stabilisation and Common Fund will not solve all the problems of international commodity trade, let alone the problems of social justice and world development, is nevertheless aware that a failure in the present conference substantially to meet the constructive proposals to which over 100 developing countries are deeply committed will gravely prejudice cooperation in world trade".

EPS



WCC LAUNCH APPEAL FOR  
INDIAN CYCLONE RELIEF

Geneva (EPS) - The World Council of Churches today (30 November) launched an initial US\$500,000 appeal for victims of the Indian cyclone disaster. The cyclone which hit the southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Kerala is believed to be India's worst natural calamity this century. Seventy-thousand dollars have already been sent for immediate relief.

It is reliably estimated that 20,000 to 25,000 people have been killed, two million are homeless, crop losses amount to 353 million dollars and the total number of people seriously affected amounts to seven million.

The Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), in India, has mobilized its teams to work in the affected areas and is engaged in a feeding programme for 70,000, the immunisation of 5,000 people against cholera and a further feeding programme in Kerala following a massive landslide.

In a message of sympathy to the Prime Minister and Government of India, World Council of Churches Acting General Secretary Dr. Konrad Raiser expressed the deeply felt sympathy and concern of churches around the world represented in the WCC about the death of large numbers of people and the devastation in Southern India. He also assured the Indian people of the prayers of Christians and support and cooperation "in your great task of relief and reconstruction".

EPS

8 December, 1977

34/44th Year

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THE NEXT EPS ISSUE WILL APPEAR BY MID-JANUARY, 1978



LATIN AMERICAN CHURCHES  
PUT ECUMENISM IN CONTEXT

Lima (EPS) - Better information in Latin America about the activities of the World Council of Churches (WCC), a pastoral letter to the 20 member churches in that continent and several proposals for a Latin American Conference of Churches were the highlights of an ecumenical consultation in Huampani, near Lima (Peru) from November 24-28.

Almost all 20 member churches as well as 9 ecumenical organizations had sent high level representatives to the meeting. The WCC was represented by Dr. Alan Brash, deputy general secretary, the Rev. Emilio Castro, director of the Commission on World Mission and evangelism and Rev. Gerson Meyer, Latin American secretary in the Justice and Service Unit.

A similar meeting had been organized for the first time in 1974 in Buenos-Aires (Argentina). This second meeting in Lima was aimed to "consider the problems and situations which arise in the context of the unity of the Church in this continent". Such unity cannot be achieved apart from "the problems of our people with which the Word of God confronts us daily" said the consultation.

The letter to the WCC's member churches in Latin America stresses the need for a pastoral action which draws its strength from the Gospel of hope in order to tackle "the often distressing realities with which we live".

Three key elements in the Latin American Church's ministry are listed. They include the faithful proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is an appeal for personal salvation and for the struggle for the redemption of society" and a "prophetic upheaval" for a real life "shown to us by God in Jesus Christ". Delegates in Lima gave precision to this point by listing "situations which we resist": poverty, illiteracy, repression, terrorism, persecution, forced migrations...

The letter also points out that "the defense of life is an act which cannot be given up". The right and duty in the pastoral ministry is defined as bringing spiritual assistance to the prisoner, consolation to the broken one, expressing solidarity with the suffering and the needy, and helping the refugee. The statement also insists on respect for the secrecy of the confessional.

This Latin American letter, which replaces the one sent recently by the WCC Central Committee to its member churches, ends by underlining that "there are signs of faithful obedience to Jesus Christ in our continent" and that many "try hard to follow the never easy way of discipleship".

In this pastoral ministry "among those who suffer and amidst the cries of men and women in our Latin America, we seek to announce with all the strength of the Gospel that sin and death have no future".

Among other points discussed in Lima, the WCC's relationship with its member churches figured high on the agenda. The need for developing this relationship in a "creative and more efficient way" was clearly expressed by the delegates. They urged that all available means of communication be used to share the spirit, goals and programmes of the WCC with public opinion and authorities alike in each country. Delegates wanted their churches' definite desire to maintain membership in the WCC well understood. Observers saw this willingness as courageous, since many members of these denominations are often put under pressure, and in some cases even arbitrarily arrested for their support to the WCC.

NEPALI CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE  
A BOOK THEY HAD ALMOST LOST

Kathmandu, Nepal (EPS) - Publication of the first complete and readily available Bible in Nepali was celebrated recently by the country's several hundred Christians.

The New Testament has been available in translation since 1821, but the Old Testament was last translated and printed in 1914. There were fewer than 10 copies surviving in Nepal, and to meet the need for a new edition 12 translators, appointed by the local Bible Society, have been at work for the last 20 years.

A special thanksgiving service was held in Kathmandu to mark the occasion, says a report from the United Mission to Nepal.

EPS

US CHURCHES RESPOND  
TO VIETNAM FOOD SHORTAGE

New York (EPS) - The first direct shipment of food from the US to Vietnam since the war will be sent by Church World Service, the international development and relief arm of the National Council of Churches in the U.S.

The consignment of 10,000 metric tons of wheat is part of a planned two million dollar contribution in donated wheat and funds to help offset a severe food shortage in Vietnam.

The shipment will be the largest in the 10 year history of CWS assistance to Vietnam, says CWS executive director Paul McCleary.

Because of the U.S. government trade embargo against Vietnam, denying humanitarian aid as well, CWS must receive special permission for the shipment. In any case, the agency will not be able to count on government reimbursement for shipping costs, as it does for most other overseas food donations, McCleary noted.

Much of the wheat is expected to be donated by U.S. farmers through CROP, the community hunger appeal of CWS. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is projecting a wheat surplus this year of more than a billion bushels.

Funds for shipping and purchased wheat are expected to be raised through the 31 church bodies that are members of CWS. Community groups and others are also being asked to contribute.

In Vietnam, the wheat will be received by the VIETMY (Vietnamese Committee for Friendship and Solidarity with the American People). The grain will be milled for bread and noodles and distributed primarily to schools and hospitals.

The special CWS appeal is part of a worldwide effort to meet Vietnam's grain shortfall, which the UN estimates will reach 1,2 million tons by the end of 1977. International aid and Vietnam's imports, according to the UN, will account for only 800,000 tons.

The current shortfall, which represents the subsistence diet of 7.2 million people for a year, has resulted mainly from the worst droughts and floods in that country for more than 30 years, McCleary reported. He added that the food problem has worsened due to the cutoff of assistance from nations that traditionally aided Vietnam, such as the U.S. and China. The continuing effects of the war's devastation have also contributed to the food emergency, he said. According to



McCleary, who visited Vietnam last May with two other CWS representatives, one third of Vietnam's arable land was abandoned during the war, and a sizeable percentage damaged by defoliation and bombing.

EPS

METHODIST EVANGELISM VENTURE  
MAKES CAPACITY CROWD START

Sydney (EPS) - If box office figures are any indication, then the World Methodist Council's new director of world evangelism is off to a rousing start.

The Sydney opera house was sold out as three thousand people paid two dollars each to see the Rev. Alan Walker installed in his new preaching post. Currently serving as a minister with Sydney's Wesley Central Mission, he will begin his new World Methodist appointment part time in January 1978, then full time in 1979.

Mr. Walker's inaugural address was a challenge to the church to "stop being a stationary institution and become a movement again." That will happen, he said, "when the church believes with all its heart that Jesus Christ can transform human personality and human society."

The evangelist described a world of increasing violence, desperate for the "non-violence of Jesus". He saw no future "for a secular gospel, neatly trimmed to the modern mind. The humanist church, fearful of the supernatural, has no message for a generation hungry for the eternal. The pietist church which lacks a social conscience is irrelevant in today's world."

EPS

YOUTH EXCHANGE SCHEME  
UNDERGOES AN OVERHAUL

Berlin (EPS) - New staff, new headquarters, and a revised constitution are just some of the changes approved by the recent General Assembly of the International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE).

The ecumenical education organization (which has enabled over 8000 young people to spend a year in a foreign country) emerges from its Iceland Assembly with a new structure aimed at "breaking through the barriers between cultures and peoples and serving those who "suffer from social, political, economic and personal injustice."

New staff members include sociologist Annemarie Cordes and business administrator Torsten Baland, both from Berlin. ICYE executive secretary Hans Schmocker retires this month after eight years of service.

EPS

NEW SECRETARY FOR ASIA  
APPOINTED TO WCC

Geneva (EPS) - The Rev. William Chien-teh Tung will become Secretary for Asia with the WCC's Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service at the beginning of 1978. Since 1974 he has been general secretary of the Hong Kong Christian Council. Born in China, he moved to Hong Kong and from 1960 to 1963 he was a social worker with the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief. He became programme assistant with the Hong Kong Christian Service in 1966, then director of that Service in 1971.

The Rev. Tung, 41, is married and has two children. He obtained his diploma in social work at the Chung Chi College in Hong Kong and has a degree in theology from Emory University, Georgia, USA.

WCC SECRETARY ELECTED TO  
NEW ZEALAND CHURCH POST

Auckland (EPS) - The Presbyterian Church of New Zealand has elected the Rev. Dr. Alan A. Brash, deputy general secretary of the World Council of Churches, as its moderator-designate.

Dr. Brash, will retire from the WCC in June, 1978 after a fruitful career in the ecumenical movement. He takes up his Presbyterian appointment next November, after 14 years absence from his home country.

Born in 1913 at Wellington (New Zealand) he studied philosophy and theology at Dunedin (NZ), and Edinburgh (Scotland). He worked for 12 years as parish minister in his country before serving two terms as secretary of the New Zealand Council of Churches.

In 1964 Dr. Brash moved to Singapore where he worked with the East Asia Christian Conference for four years as inter-church aid secretary. He then moved to London to become Director of Christian Aid, the British churches aid organization. In 1970 he was appointed as Director of the WCC's Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugees and would service, until his nomination as deputy general secretary of WCC in 1974.

By electing Dr. Brash as its next moderator, the New Zealand Presbyterian Church is seen to be expressing confidence in the WCC. Founded 140 years ago, the Church now numbers 400,000 members in 500 different parishes.

EPS

YOUNG BAPTISTS TO  
MEET IN PHILIPPINES

Washington (EPS) - More than five thousand people are expected to attend the Ninth Baptist Youth World Conference in the Philippines from July 19-23, 1978. Representatives from some 70 nations will meet in Manila to explore the theme, "Jesus Christ - the One Light for All People", says an announcement from the sponsoring body, the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

The youth conference has met at approximately five yearly intervals since 1931 when it gathered in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

A large part of the 1978 conference will take place in 15-member core groups. Special features will include international music groups, a choir and orchestra, speakers, and a musical drama.

EPS



IRISH CHURCH LEADERS  
URGE SUPPORT OF POLICE

Belfast (EPS) - Four prominent Irish church leaders from the north and the south, three of them recently appointed, have joined to declare a firm vote of confidence in their respective governments' "duly constituted forces of law and order".

Their common affirmation is made in response to recent allegations of suspects and prisoners being ill-treated by arresting and interrogating police officers.

The four churchmen (Methodist, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland) say they are disturbed by the allegations but recognize that "some persons opposed to state authorities can be expected to attack their security forces not only with physical violence but also malicious accusations."

The church leaders urge the public to strengthen the forces of law and order by "constructive criticism and personal support", commend government policy in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, while calling for "adequate precautions to be taken against abuse".

The four signatories are Robert G. Livingstone, President, Methodist Church in Ireland; Thomas O'Fiaich, Roman Catholic Bishop of Armagh; Thomas A. Patterson, Moderator, Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and George O. Simms, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh.

Press comment to date on the statement has generally commended the churchmen's action, while the common ground and ecumenical understanding they display has been welcomed as a fresh approach to healing old divisions.

EPS

FEATURE

THE SOWETO ACTION COMMITTEE  
CONTINUES THE STRUGGLE

By Dominique Tournier

Johannesburg (EPS) - Once again the South African government has shown its unwillingness to tolerate any opposition which refuses to 'work within the system'. One of the latest targets of repressive police measures is the Soweto Action Committee (SAC), founded by supporters of the 'black consciousness movement'.

Announcing its creation in a Nov. 22nd statement, SAC said that it intended to fill the gap left by the banning on Oct. 19th of anti-apartheid movements, including the Christian Institute and most of the black consciousness movements. The Soweto Action Committee chose the Rev. Lesiba Malotse, an Anglican priest, as its president. Mr. Malotse was one of the black clergymen arrested outside police headquarters in Johannesburg's John Vorster Square during a peaceful demonstration against the repressive measures of last October.

But at the very time that a magistrate in Pretoria was announcing the verdict at the inquest into black consciousness leader Steve Biko's death in prison, and stating that there were no grounds for any prosecutions, the security police carried out another raid in Soweto and arrested Mr. Ishmael Mkhabela, vice-president of SAC, and a number of others working with the organization. A brother and a cousin of Steven Biko were also arrested but released and expelled from Johannesburg a few hours later.

However, the new committee showed no signs of compromising on its principles to become more palatable to the authorities. It declared its opposition immediately to the community councils (municipalities without real power which the government intends to establish in black townships). At the same time, and in cooperation with the Soweto teachers who resigned their posts, the committee offered its support in establishing a parallel school system for the tens of thousands of young blacks in the huge African township who have now been without schooling of any kind for some time.

The creation of the action committee has been welcomed in various quarters. The Lutheran Bishop of Johannesburg, an influential member of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) Dr. Manas Buthelezi, and president of the recently banned Black Parents' Association, described the establishment of SAC as proof that the black community had no intention of surrendering. 'It proves that there are inexhaustible resources of leadership among the Soweto people, he said. 'The Committee has a right to our support for having spoken out clearly about the way the problems of Soweto can be solved.'

The creation of SAC has also been welcomed by Mr. Nathanael Molohe, vice-president of the Soweto Teachers' Action Committee, who says that his movement, composed of teachers who resigned in solidarity with the pupils on strike, is ready to collaborate with SAC. The new committee's position was publicised in a widely circulated tract distributed among the million and a half inhabitants of the city. It is entitled 'A Message for your Conscience' and it includes the following points:

'Our leaders have been arrested; our spokesmen have been reduced to silence. The white man imposes his will on us. Community councils are being foisted on us; our wages fall; unemployment is increasing; and now rents are being raised.



It is high time to say: enough is enough. Neither to our people in prison nor to the rest is it any secret that the struggle continues, that the struggle will continue until the black man becomes the master of his own destiny in the land of his birth.'

'Our message to our brothers and sisters is this:

- We refuse to cooperate either as candidates or as voters in the community councils.
- We reject the rent increases and will ignore them.
- We reject with contempt the white man's propaganda tracts (dropped from planes) or the propaganda over the Bantu Radio.
- Never forget - this propaganda is meant to sugar the bitter pill of oppression - we do not want it - we do not need it.
- Our top priority is the education of our children.'

' Let us all get organized for the education of our children. We shall not sacrifice our birthright for so-called 'privileges' which are really our basic rights.'

' There is no going back now -

' We cannot remain silent...'

*Soweto Action Committee.*

Reinforced by its massive victory in the white elections on November 30th, there is no sign that the government is prepared to relax its stranglehold on black opposition movements, as some in South Africa seem to hope. On the contrary, Pretoria is determined to impose its plans. The 'Bothuthatswana' became 'independent' on December 6th, and thereby followed the Transkei down the road to international isolation. The next step is the community councils. Elections are scheduled for Soweto in February and the authorities have no intention of letting anyone spoil their plans between now and then.

What is at stake is control of the African townships. Since the anti-apartheid demonstrations began in June of last year, the situation in the black urban zones has got completely out of government control. Resistance in these zones has been led mostly by students who have largely carried the adult movements with them. This is especially illustrated by the resignation of Soweto's Bantu urban council, the government's retreat on the rent question last May, and the continuing struggle against Bantu education.

To re-establish order, the government decided to take a tough line, hence its repressive measures last October.

Paradoxically, in his first post-election statements, John Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, has envisaged granting full municipal status to African townships - the very thing demanded by the Soweto 'Committee for Ten', most of whose members are now in jail. But Pretoria's intention is to keep a tight control on the pace of 'changes' and on those who will implement them.







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Camera Press



Photo Press

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## JOY CHRIS

2052



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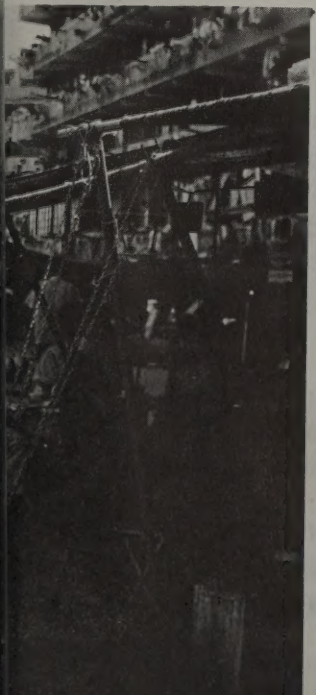
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# MAS LOVE

the season to remember the people who  
 t to be in the centre of our thoughts  
 rest of the year, people very often  
 e on the fringes of our societies. Share  
 ht, a prayer, some support for them,  
 this season of joy and love.

British parachutists prepare for a jump  
 on an orphanage.  
 A moment of happiness for an old lady  
 of 103.  
 Surprises for a group of young Chinese  
 refugees.  
 'Help the Aged' in Hong Kong has invited  
 him for Christmas.  
 In the streets of Helsinki and in cities  
 All over the world the Salvation Army  
 reminds passers-by not to forget the  
 less fortunate.

2053



(2055) A grandmother  
 in a Middle East  
 refugee camp holds  
 all the hope she has.

(2056) In the mountains  
 of Poland young men  
 herald the coming of  
 Christmas.

(2057) The light of  
 Christmas shines out  
 across a frontier  
 somewhere in Europe.

\* \* \*



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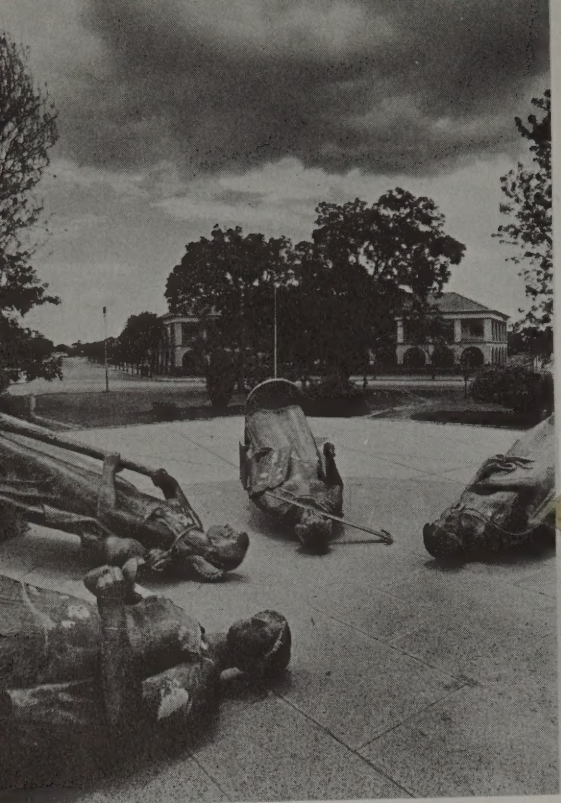
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Photo Press

2057





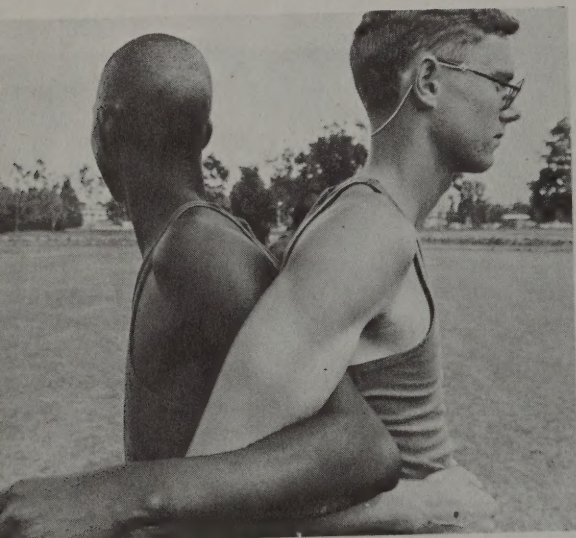


2049

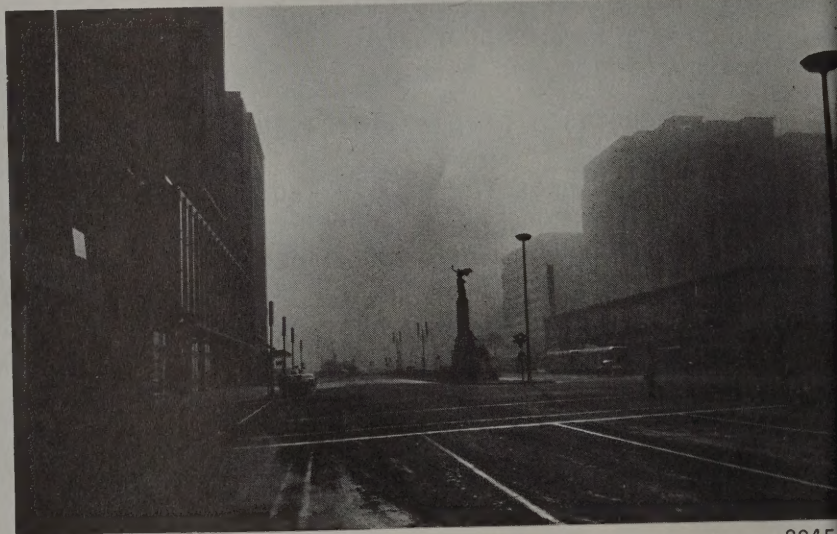


2047

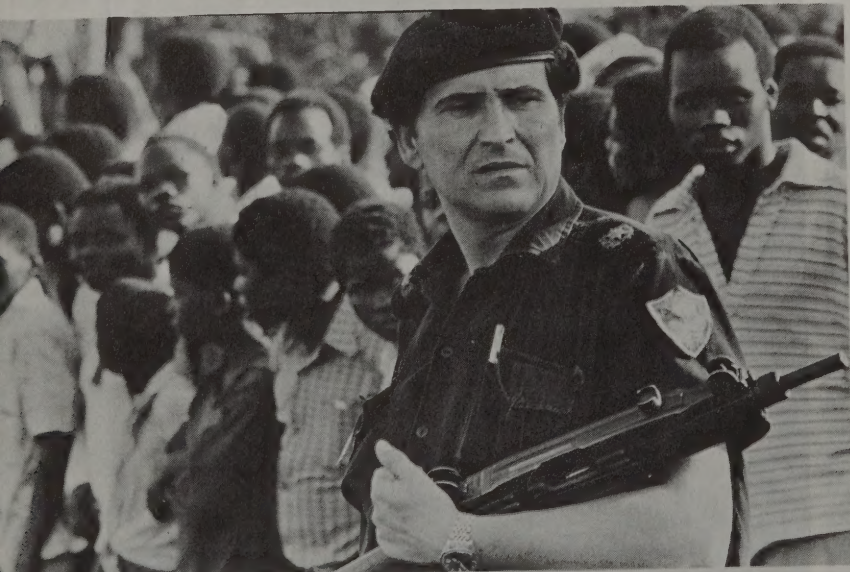
## ANGER IN AFRICA



2048



2045



2046

The situation in South Africa and Rhodesia is deteriorating daily. (2045) As the outlook becomes darker the chances of a peaceful settlement between the white minority and the black majority fade.

(2046-47) The days when the African majority could be kept out of public life at gun point are coming to an end.

(2048) Arm in arm: a symbol of the reconciliation that would be possible but this is a Rhodesian army training exercise.

(2049) Anger in Africa is overthrowing the idols of the past.

Photos Salgado-GAMMA.







